



THE INDEPENDENT

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Why British fashion is razor sharp

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Melvyn Bragg answers your questions

Suzanne Moore: Nobody likes a smart alec



IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

I will not back down, vows Blair

TONY BLAIR declared yesterday that he would not retreat from his crusade to transform Britain and appealed for party support when his radical, but painful, reforms start to hurt.

Warning that 1999 would be a critical "year of challenge" for his Government, he told the Labour conference in Blackpool there would be "no backing down" from his tough decisions on inflation, interest rates and public spending.

"Backbone not backbone is what Britain needs," he said.

The Prime Minister suggested that no section of society would be immune from his modernisation plan. He demanded greater efficiency from the education, health and police services, but also had a stark message for Britain's businessmen: "Be honest: your fundamental problem is not high interest rates or a high pound. It is too few first-class managers. Too little investment. Too little productivity."

Mr Blair's uncompromising 50-minute speech, which was enthusiastically received by the conference, was aimed at carrying his party with him as he pushes through reforms.

However, he made clear he would press ahead without his party's support if necessary. He said the Government must "listen to criticism but not be paralysed by it", and march towards its destination "through the thickets of disillusion, the ambush of oppositionists for whom all change is betrayal and who long for our failure".

Labour would be attacked from both the left and right, but must "hold firm". He said: "Of course we'd rather be popular

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

than unpopular. But better to be unpopular than wrong."

He assured his party the reforms would be true to Labour's traditional values, saying it had won the battle of ideas and the "crude individualism" of the Thatcher era had been replaced by "community" as the spirit of the times. "It's up to me" was being replaced by "it's up to us".

He dismissed as "nonsense" the idea that his administration was "just a more moderate or

KEY POINTS

- £400m National Lottery cash for education, environment and health
- Bad teachers and heads weeded out
- Rigorous inspection of hospitals and doctors
- Tougher regime for new benefit claimants
- Green Paper soon on strengthening family life

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competent Tory government".

But Mr Blair left his audience in no doubt that some unpalatable medicine would have to be swallowed. He said reform was "the only salvation" for the welfare state, and signalled changes to pensions and disability benefits.

Mr Blair announced a tougher regime for new claimants, who will be called to interviews with a personal adviser "to talk about how they can

become more independent".

Mr Blair said there was no reason why a headteacher who turned round a failing school should not earn £50,000 or £70,000 a year. But bad heads "shouldn't be running a school at all". Officials later revealed a new scheme under which "burnt out" heads would be transferred to a less demanding job, perhaps a part-time post, rather than be sacked.

Mr Blair announced that a Green Paper aimed at strengthening the family would be published next month. Amid ministerial fears that the crusade could be a repeat of John Major's disastrous "back to basics" campaign, he urged the media not to use the initiative "as an excuse to dredge through the private lives of every public figure".

He struck a sceptical note about the introduction of proportional representation for House of Commons elections and assured his party: "The Government will decide its response in the interests of the country, not in the interests of the Liberal Democrats."

His words suggested cabinet ministers would be subject to collective responsibility and would not be free to campaign for their own views on PR.

Denying Paddy Ashdown's charge that he was a "control freak", Mr Blair confirmed he would give up the Prime Minister's traditional right to appoint peers.

Mr Blair adopted a positive tone on Europe, after criticism from pro-Europeans that sceptics were winning the propaganda battle while the Government remained silent.



Tony Blair's shadow is projected on to the platform backdrop before he makes his speech

Louise Buller

Serbs butcher Kosovo children

BY MARCUS TANNER

THE HORRIFIC evidence of mass murder lies mangled and twisted in the bushes of the Drenica region of the devastated Serbian province of Kosovo.

The massacred bodies of children - backs arched and mouths stretched open in terror - lie sprawling on the ground, victims of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's "war against Albanian terrorists" in the province.

Some were shot in the back of the head. Others have throats cut or mutilated limbs. The killers slit the throat of one 10-year-old boy, blew out his mother's brains, cut open the stomach of another female relative and shot a pregnant woman in the head.

Two days later they remained unburied, sprawled in the forest where they died.

The massacre came a day after Serbia's Prime Minister, Mirko Marjanovic, boasted to the Belgrade parliament that "peace reigns today in Kosovo", and amid promises that Serbian security forces in the province will be pulled back to their bases.

The gruesome evidence of just what Serbia's "war against terrorism" is costing the Albanian civilian population of Kosovo - so reminiscent of the Serbs' campaign of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in 1992 - was discovered near the village of Obrizje by a group of European diplomats representing the situation Contact Group. Diplomats from the group - including Britain - are meeting in London today to discuss the Balkans.

"The Serb police executed everybody," said an old man, one of the few surviving witnesses.

Both sides have accused the other of torture. The Serbian government says at least 39 Serbs were tortured, mutilated and killed near the village of Glodjane earlier this month.

Confident leader challenges Britain

WELCOME to government. Tony Blair quoted the New York Democrat Mario Cuomo's sobering remark that "we govern in prose". Yet oddly, it was the least prosaic and most skillfully crafted of all the speeches he has made since becoming leader. The standing ovation in mid-speech for "our very own" Mo Mowlam's stewardship of Northern Ireland was a moment of pure theatre, the most emotion he has ever allowed his party to enjoy at a party conference. It was also his most supremely self-confident performance.

Who said this was a Prime Minister frightened of giving offence? He had tough messages for bad teachers, absent fathers, anti-social neighbours.

He warned the party to brace itself for the short term unpopularity that will attend welfare reform. His ringing reaffirmation that there is no alternative macro-economic policy was a brutal rebuff to the union leaders and party critics who think otherwise. His stark lesson on the power of international capitalism's "permanent revolution" was an answer to the intellectuals who say that globalism is dead. He was uncompromisingly dismissive of businessmen who blame their uncompetitiveness on an independent Bank of England rather than their own underperformance. He challenged the media's unhealthy interest in politicians' private lives. And he put the middle-class professionals in hospitals



DONALD MACINTYRE

and schools on notice that they are about to undergo a painful period of change.

Chauvinism in all its forms was also in his sights. He is now fired up for the biggest political struggle of next year, the elections to the Scottish Parliament. He has always been a more ardent unionist than he was a devolutionist. But it looks

as though he has now persuaded himself that home rule was indeed the only way of saving the Union, and his withering condemnation of little Scotlandism gave a hint of what Alex Salmond's SNP will be in for next spring. Beside this he made Commons reform sound - ominously for the Liberal Democrats - a distant, second order issue. There was an element of playing to the gallery here. Deep opposition to electoral reform has still to be defeated in Blackpool this week.

But it will make those around Ashdown distinctly nervous. Deftly he coupled his attack on British nationalism with a resounding reaffirmation of his own Europeanism; at least as resounding as is possible while Britain stays out of EMU. Some

of those around Blair are now hopeful that the SPD's victory in Bonn will finally let London realise its dream of breaking into the Franco-German axis. Whether that is over-optimistic, Blair was as unequivocal as he has been to a domestic audience about the benefits to Britain of a successful Euro.

But while many of his messages to the party were tough, the British left, in the widest sense, should be reassured by the way he has started to draw the ideological dividing lines. He denounced the notion that the Tories could have done what Labour has done, from union rights to the minimum wage, from the extra billions for health and education to a rise in overseas aid. He dispelled doubts that the Government is pre-

pared to challenge the private motorist by allowing John Prescott his radical transport Bill. He drew a devastating contrast between the isolationism of the British right and the modernised internationalism of the centre left. The speech was an exposition of what the third way means in practice.

Tony Benn once said that Margaret Thatcher's great strength was to be a teacher-politician. It hasn't always been clear whether Tony Blair had the same gift, but after yesterday it looks as if he has.

Part of the lesson was that if the dividing line between centre left and right isn't one most of his party yet recognises, it still exists, and - whisper it softly - he is on the same side of it as the left is.

Hand-me-down heart goes into third body

A PATIENT has received a "third-hand heart" in what is believed to be the first case of serial transplantation of the organ.

The heart, which is now beating in the chest of an Italian man, spent its first 56 years pumping blood round the body of a Swiss woman who died in Lugano in August.

An Italian medical team, headed by Antonio Gambino, a

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

cardiac surgeon, flew to the Swiss town and removed the dead woman's heart on 27 August. With the heart packed in ice, they flew back to Padua and transplanted it into a 53-year-old woman who was critically ill with heart disease.

Lodged in its second owner, the heart performed well and

the woman was making a good recovery from the surgery until the fifth day when she suffered a brain aneurysm - a swelling in an artery that burst. She was diagnosed brain dead but her newly transplanted heart was still in good shape.

Mr Gambino had a third patient, a man, waiting and he transplanted the entire heart for a second time. He took with it a segment of the heart from

the second donor which had been left in place during the first transplant. A man's chest is larger than a woman's and the extra tissue was necessary to join the female heart to the man's major blood vessels.

The operation, described in *The Lancet*, the medical magazine, took place on 2 September. Both patient and third-hand heart are functioning well. The man is expected to go

home in two weeks, a member of the surgical team said yesterday.

The resilience of the organ and its new owner has surprised specialists. During the two transplants, the heart spent a total of five hours in "cold ischaemia" - a state of suspended animation during which no blood was being pumped through it - without sustaining any obvious damage

even though four hours is the recommended maximum.

Mr Gambino said the third patient had received heart tissue from two donors, rather than one.

"It will be interesting to see the characteristics of the response evoked by this immunological challenge," he said. Early signs were good, he said, with tests showing no signs of rejection.

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Loch Lomond and the Cairngorm mountains should become Scotland's first national parks, the Government's nature advisers recommended. Page 4

First test for work-hours ruling

An organisation that sets standards for management techniques is to become the first employer in the country to be challenged under the working time directive, for "running staff into the ground". Page 4

Big rise in number of lone parents

Britain has the highest proportion of one-parent families in Europe, with the numbers rising by more than 90 per cent since the 1980s. Page 9

FOREIGN NEWS

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Greens set out their agenda

Germany's Green MPs - junior partners in the governing coalition - set out some of the demands they will be making of the Social Democrats. Page 13

Georges no more than a storm

Hurricane Georges was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday as the swirling winds that have been lashing the US Gulf coast dropped below 50mph. Page 14

West Bank threat to Netanyahu

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is calculating how to call the bluff of his coalition partners who are threatening to bring him down if he agrees to hand over more West Bank territory. Page 14

BUSINESS NEWS

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Jobs gloom deepens

BMW warned of further cutbacks at its Rover car plants as manufacturing industry was hit by a further 1,150 job losses. Page 16

Hedge funds weathering storm

Not all hedge funds are highly leveraged monsters lurking out of control. Although most have been hit by the global financial crisis, 13 of the top 20 funds are still showing gains. Page 19

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England bank on old guard

The England Rugby Union coach, Clive Woodward, relied on the old guard when he announced the squad for the World Cup qualifiers. Page 22

Man United in Belgian link-up

Manchester United are to use Belgian club Royal Antwerp to groom their future foreign stars and solve their work permit problems at the same time. Page 26

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20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Ken Livingstone

'Like so many religious fanatics, the Millbank fundamentalists seem driven by an inability to construct proper human relationships, to find another outlet for their energies.' Page 3

Desmond Tutu

'Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it. It comes back nightmarishly.' Page 4

John Walsh

'Pretentiousness comes with the territory. It's a requirement of the job. An unpretentious wine connoisseur would be as much use as a surreptitious town crier.' Page 4

Robert Fisk

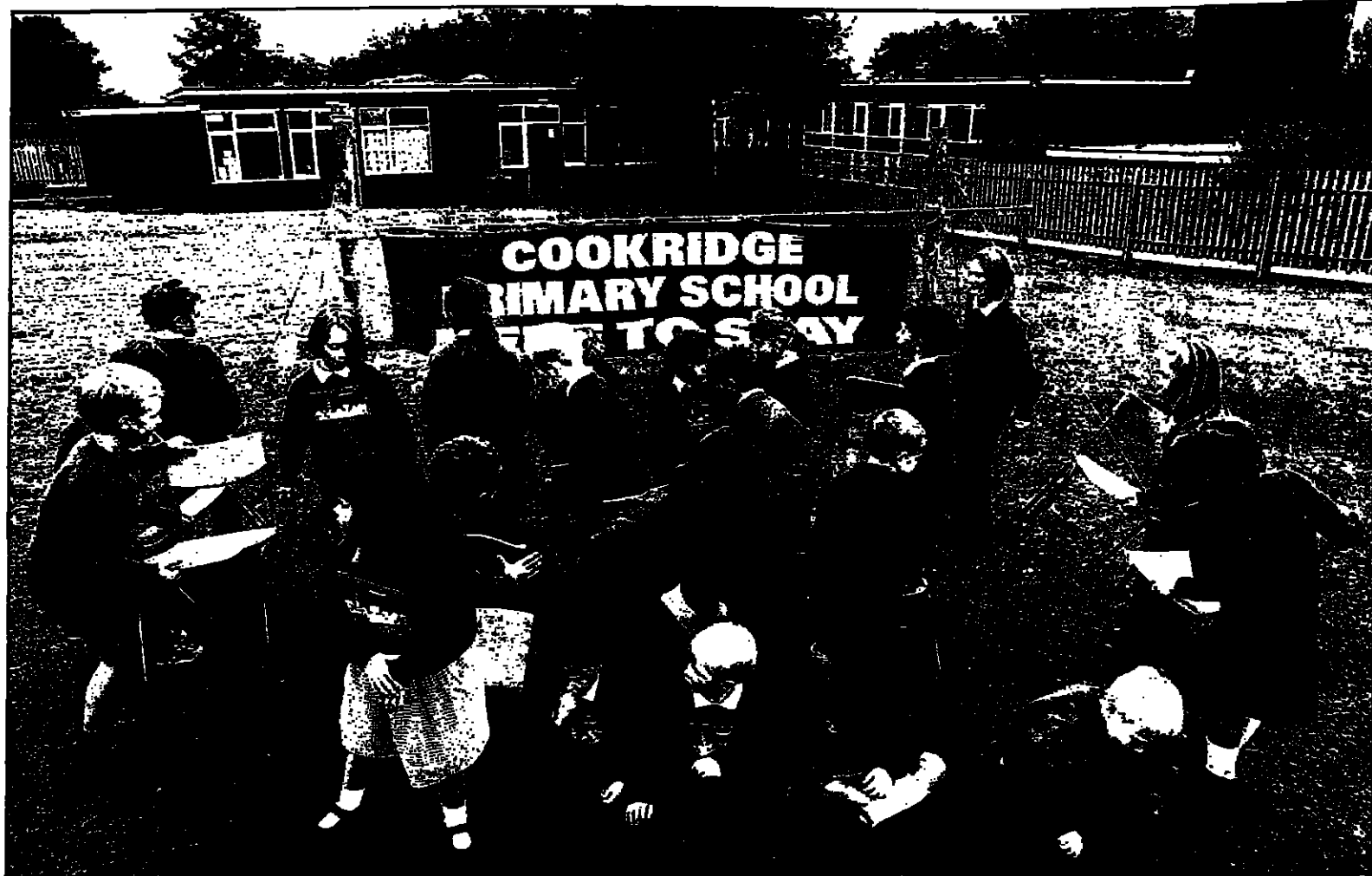
'Why do we not rage against those who accept the shameful idea that sickness must be "incurable", that our betters know what they are doing when they prefer missiles to medicine?' Page 5

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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997



Pupils at Cookridge Primary School raising the profile of their campaign to halt Leeds City Council's closure plans Peter Byrne/Guzelian

Children
in fight
for school
win aid

BY JUDITH JUDD

TWENTY CHILDREN aged between five and nine have been awarded legal aid to launch a High Court challenge over the closure of their school.

The children, from Cookridge Primary School in Leeds, are applying for a judicial review of the city council's closure plans, which are part of a scheme to reduce surplus places.

Both the council and inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education agree that the school is doing a good job. Cookridge's headteacher, Stuart Tomlinson, said yesterday: "We feel the fact that 20 children and their parents are prepared to come forward and apply for legal aid is a measure of the strength of opposition to the closure."

Jonathan Cairns, the solicitor acting for the children, said: "The children have properly applied for legal aid because they are the ones who will be affected by the closure."

Pupils were lodged in the High Court last week and a judge's decision is expected in about two months.

The school argues that the council failed in its duty to consult properly over the closure and that it is using out-of-date figures for the number of places in the school. Mr Tomlinson said the local authority argued that there were places for 420 pupils at the school but that was out of date.

Since classrooms had been converted to a library, changing rooms and an after-school club, there was now space for only about 325. When closure was first proposed, the school had 337 pupils.

The figures are important, the school says, because a government circular earlier this year told councils to focus on schools with 25 per cent or more surplus places.

Numbers this year are down to 272 but Mr Tomlinson says that this is the result of uncertainty about the future.

Class sizes fall but many
still exceed 30-pupil plan

CLASS SIZES have been cut to 30 or under for 140,000 infants this term, a government survey showed yesterday. But 345,000, just over a fifth of five, six and seven-year-olds, are still in classes of 31 or more.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the figures showed the Government was on target to meet one of its key election pledges - the reduction of class sizes for all children aged seven and under by September 2001.

Conservatives immediately challenge ministers to prove that the reduction had not been achieved by increasing class sizes for older children or by restricting parental choice.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

In January, ministers were embarrassed by figures which showed that class sizes were still rising.

But a survey of 146 of the 150 local education authorities to discover class-size estimates for mid-September suggests that the number of infants in classes of 31 or more is 345,000 compared with 485,000 last year.

Mr Blunkett said: "This is a product of investment worth £22 million in revenue which has enabled schools to recruit 1,527 extra teachers, together with £40 million this year to new classrooms."

"These grants together with a further £560 million over the next three years for new teachers and extra classrooms will ensure that we meet our class sizes pledge ahead of schedule."

"Parents will welcome these improvements, which will mean smaller classes, more teachers, more classrooms and the safeguarding of parental choice."

Most infants, he said, would be in classes of 30 or fewer by September 2000 and the pledge would be met for all infants by September 2001.

David Willetts, the shadow secretary of state for education, said: "We have always said that if you pursue the objective or re-

ducing infant classes, you can certainly deliver it but at what price? How many parents will not be able to get their children into the school of their first choice because that would push class sizes above 30?"

He said the Government must also publish figures about unsuccessful parental appeals on admissions and on the effect on class sizes elsewhere in primary schools. Yesterday's figures are a projection based on returns from 88 per cent of all primary schools.

Estimates published yesterday do not show class sizes for primary school children aged over seven, which also rose last year.

At the beginning of the year, there were 832,700 seven to eleven-year-olds, up by 53,100 on the year before.

Government sources insisted there was no evidence of an increase in class sizes for the eight to eleven age group.

But Mr Willetts said: "Ministers must publish figures which show where schools are reducing infant classes at the expense of more mixed-age classes, and bigger classes in later years."

Visiting schools around the country, Mr Willetts said he saw examples of both consequences of the Government's single-minded drive to reduce infant classes.

Big cheeses snatched from the jaws of victory

IT IS admittedly terribly corny - but irresistible - to report that Jamie Montgomery is thoroughly cheesed off.

This morning the Somerset farmer was awakening to the prospect of his third consecutive victory in the British Cheese Awards in London. But even if he does again win gold medal in the mature Cheddar

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

category, he knows he will not be able to cash in on the extra sales that would be created by again proving he is big cheese of the cheese world.

Under the cover of darkness, thieves have broken into Mr Montgomery's refrigerated stores at North Cadbury and

stolen 275 unpasteurised, muslin-covered truckles weighing about five tons in total and worth £30,000. He is not insured. Hard cheese, indeed.

Organisers of the British Cheese Awards have suggested the theft of the 50lb truckles might have been carried out by jealous rivals. Juliet Harbut, founder of the awards, said:

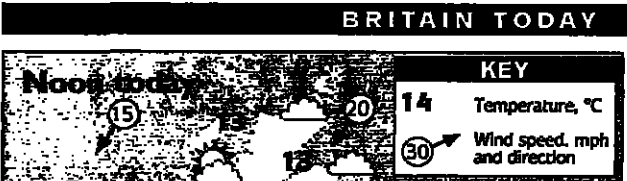
"You have to assume that it was someone from within the industry, otherwise how do you get rid of it? There is a strong possibility it is industrial espionage - of the highest order."

"The worst thing is that it might just get ground up and end up in someone's cheese and pickle sandwich. That would be terrible."

Mr Montgomery, whose 12-month-old Cheddar is made to a recipe perfected by his grandfather, is not convinced. "If there are people in the business who would do this I am very disappointed," he said. "It is possible, but it is not a theory I support." But he admits the thieves must have contacts in the industry. "It's not the sort of

thing you can just get rid of, is it?" Mr Montgomery's cheese is produced from milk from his 140 Friesians. When not being stolen by cheese thieves it sells for £8-£9 a pound.

Not all the cheese was stolen. The samples for the awards were untouched and a third victory would provide some consolation at least.



BRITAIN TODAY

General situation Heavy rain will move north across England and Wales. The east and south-east will be bright but with some showers. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a little sun after rain. North-west Scotland will stay dry until later but the east will be dull, windy and chilly with drizzle then steady rain.

SE & Cent S England, London, E Anglia, Midlands: Heavy rain clearing then brighter but showery. Moderate to fresh east to south-east winds, easing later. Max temp 16-18C (61-64F).

SW England, Channel Is, S Wales: Heavy rain becoming more showery. Steady rain returning later. Fresh to strong south to south-east winds, easing moderate variable. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

N Wales, Cent W & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Heavy rain moving in, becoming more showery later. Fresh north to north-east winds, locally strong, easing later. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

E & NE England: Overcast with coastal mist patches. Rain slowly spreading northwards, some heavy. Chilly, especially near the coast. Freshening easterly winds. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow: Some sun but clouding over with rain coming, heavy rain. Moderate east to north-east winds, fresh later. Max temp 15-17C (59-63F).

W Scotland, W Ireland: Some sun but clouding over with rain this evening. Moderate east to north-east winds, fresh later. Max temp 13-15C (55-61F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Fog patches and drizzle. Rain later. Chilly, especially near the coast. Fresh east winds. Max temp 13-15C (55-61F).

N Ireland: Occasional showers with brief sunny spells later. Fresh easterly winds. Max temp 13-14C (55-57F).

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LIGHTING UP

Worst: Glasgow 19C (66F)
Coldest: Leeds 10C (50F)
Wettest: S. Wales 0.6 in (16 mm)
Sunniest: St. Andrews 7.5 hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday

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EXTREMES

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THE WORLD

Worst: Glasgow 19C (66F)
Coldest: Leeds 10C (50F)
Wettest: S. Wales 0.6 in (1

سلاسل الأزياء

Never mind the clothes, see the show

BY TAMSEN BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

INTRICATELY hand-carved wooden legs, improvised avant-garde choral works, models sprayed with paint by robotic arms, skirts made of wicker work or razor wire, revolving floors, drama, suspense, theatre.

No, we are not talking about the latest Andrew Lloyd Webber West End musical or Ridley Scott film. This is London Fashion Week and clothes alone are no longer enough.

British designers have a lot to live up to. The hype they have generated over the past few seasons means their couture alone will no longer keep the world's media happy.

The point was proven again last night. Young gun Andrew Groves attracted attention by sending out a five pound note and a razor blade with much sought after invitations to his show.

Simon Costin, the show's art director who has previously worked with Alexander McQueen, built a 22-metre catwalk out of "white powder" for the occasion, making the catwalk itself an art installation.

To succeed in London, designers need to follow in the footsteps of Hussein Chalayan and Alexander McQueen, the kings of performance art.

Both designers have broadened the idea of the catwalk show. For most designers, fashion week is about selling clothes. For Chalayan and McQueen, fashion is about theatre, atmosphere and peddling an image. Indeed, in some cases, the concept is more important than the clothes.

These are designers who have something more to say than "here's a pretty frock" - but their ideas have none the less made them the UK's most successful fashion exports.

Not only do their own collections make London Fashion Week unmissable for overseas press and buyers, McQueen also designs for the French house of Givenchy, while Chalayan's talents have won him the job at the American knitwear company TSE Cashmere.



The art of dressing, as seen in the work of Hussein Chalayan, left, and of Alexander McQueen for London Fashion Week



Ben Elmes

Chalayan's work involves music and architecture. His shows are precisely choreographed performances to which access is deliberately restricted.

The Atlantis art space in the East End was transformed into a stark theatre set; under the bright white lights, the conductor and musical improviser Gregory Rose, dressed in industrial white paper overalls, tapped his baton and a 30-

strong choir stood to attention. The complex work that followed was far from the pounding house music we associate with catwalk shows. But then, nor was there a catwalk, just a vast white performance space. Sniggers and titters rippled through the audience.

Not surprisingly Chalayan is accused of being pretentious. But he merely uses clothes as a medium for his art. His performance pieces could be held

before art, dance, or music critics as easily as the fashion world. They would be impressed. In the fashion arena, Chalayan's audience focus on the clothes. He has refined his minimalist designs to perfection. But the clothes themselves do not a show make. The models stepped out onto the white stage in pairs, in precise choreographed symmetry, their clothes mirror images of one another.

McQueen's collection was shown on a set that took two days to build, with the unexpected addition of two robotic arms built into a wooden floor. For the show's finale, the American star model Shalom Harlow was frozen to the spot. The robots, borrowed from Fiat in Italy, sprayed her with fluorescent paint as though she was a car on a production line.

"The collection was about arts and crafts, and the relationship between man and machine," McQueen said yesterday adding, "I'm just a bit mad in the head."

His role as fashion designer has grown beyond the making of dresses. He is the fashion world's provocateur. His work as an art director is regularly seen in the pages of the style magazines *The Face* and *Dazed & Confused* which the designer recently guest edited with the "Access-able" cover

story featuring people with physical disabilities. One of them, Aimee Mullins, modelled in the show helped along the way by a pair of beautifully elegant, hand-crafted *haute couture* wooden legs.

McQueen's work is about image-making. "I am an illusionist for the next millennium," he says. Like Chalayan, he uses fashion as an arm of the visual arts. If he sells a few suits along the way, so much the better.

London's dedicated leaders of fashion



McQueen: Misunderstood

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, 29, is from east London. He has been described as a "lout" as well as a genius and a visionary. He calls himself a "rob".

But this is all part of his hype machine. More precisely McQueen is a contradiction in terms. A genius fashion designer who hails from a working-class background, he has a natural disdain for the wealthy people who wear his clothes.

BY MELANIE RICKEY

He also has the bravado to say what he thinks, but those beliefs tend to be misunderstood and reduced to sensationalism.

He graduated in 1992 from the MA course at Central St Martin's after training on Savile Row. He is a fantastic tailor, and tends toward the dramatic statement, while still creating

ing clothes for strong women. At first no-one understood his collections. Given names like "Highland Rape" it was easy to see why.

In 1997 he began work as designer for Givenchy, for whom he designs four collections a year as well as his own London-based line.

Hussein Chalayan, 28, was brought up in north London, but his parents are Turkish Cypriot.

Cerebral, emotional and patriotic, Chalayan is informed by Middle Eastern culture, often using his clothes - which are regarded as avant-garde art pieces that retain their commercial edge - to question fashion and body politics by restricting, revealing or concealing the body.

He graduated from St Martin's in 1993 with a BA in Fashion Design, and gained notoriety

with a graduation collection of dresses which he buried in his back garden with iron filings to create a rusted effect. Browns put these clothes in their coveted window space.

Since then he has used unrippable paper to make clothes (worn by Bjork on the cover of her album *Post*), used flight paths as surface decoration, and explored the nature of the Muslim Chador.



Chalayan: Worn by Bjork

ALTERNATIVE FASHION AWARDS

Nice try We like the cut of your gib
Darling, you were divine

Washout of the week

The rain... the rain. No, it wasn't an Alexander McQueen show, this was for real. Julien Macdonald's Saturday night show was watched by an audience of drenched spectators, thanks to hours of torrential rain.
Mwah factor

(Pearly) Queen of the week

Anna Plaggi, the superbly eccentric creative director of Italian Vogue, chose to wear her own homage to London style on Monday night. She dressed as a Pearly Queen, complete with cane and mini-Trilby.
Mwah factor

Venue of the week

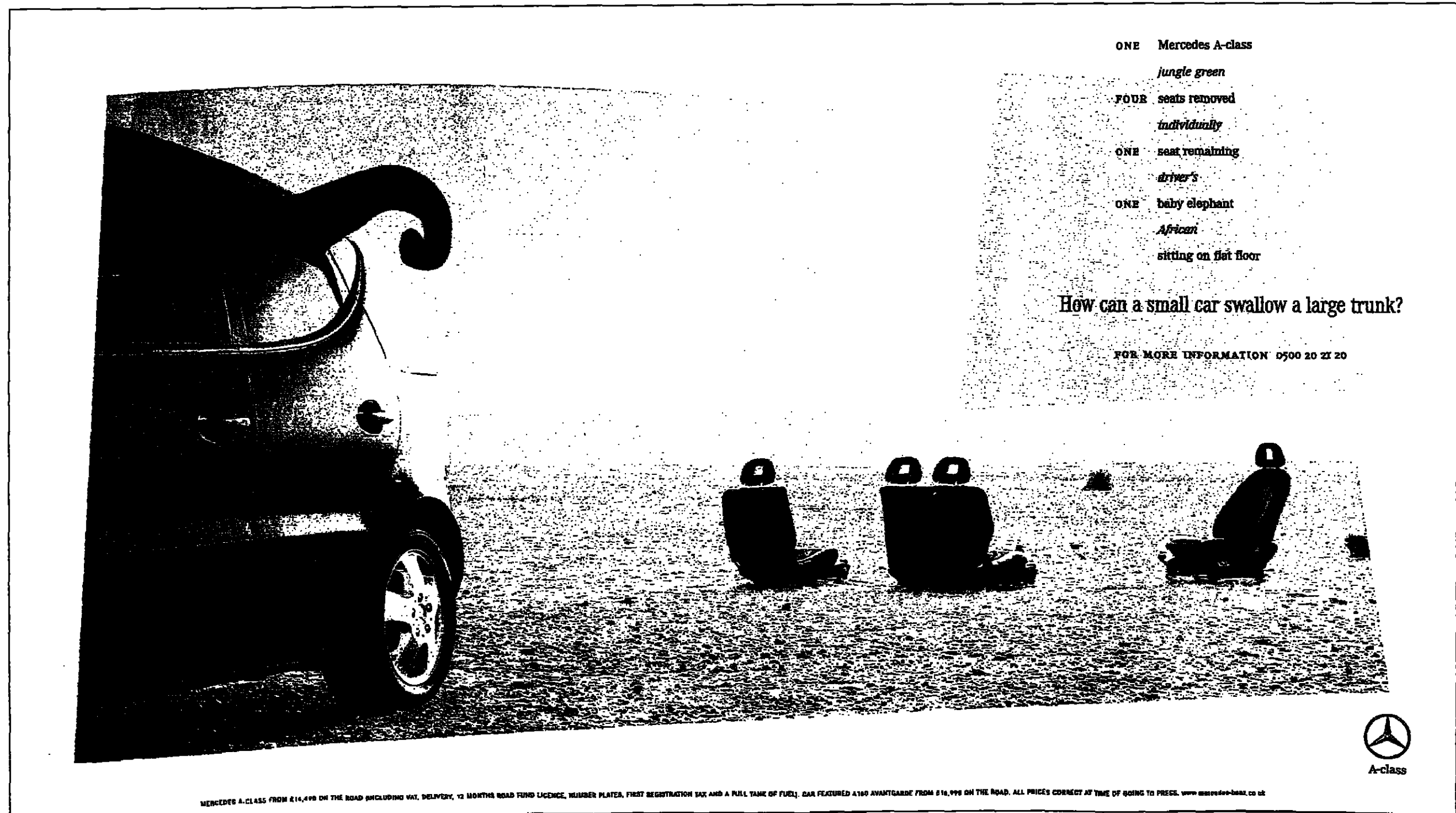
The Plaza Cinema on Lower Regent Street for Sonia Nuttall's show. The seats were comfy, and excerpts from *Now Voyager*, the Bette Davis classic, was shown. When Bette says: "Why have the moon, when we can have the stars?" the crowd broke into spontaneous applause.
Mwah factor

Flounce of the week

No one had ever seen Mick Hucknall leave a show so quickly. He was miffed because David Beckham and Posh Spice hogged the limelight throughout the Antonio Berardi show. The cameras ignored him and his girlfriend Marilyn, who spent part of the next day looking for press clippings about herself - only to find the picture caption gave her the name of Hucknall's last girlfriend, Diddums.
Mwah factor
NIL

Ticket of the week

Antonio Berardi sent out a credit card instead of a ticket. Many show-goers wondered if the "Berardi Card" was redeemable for a pair of his fabulous sexy trousers. It wasn't.
Mwah factor



ONE Mercedes A-class
jungle green
FOUR seats removed
individually
ONE seat remaining
driver's
ONE baby elephant
African
sitting on flat floor

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National parks plan for Scotland

LOCH LOMOND and the Cairngorm mountains should become Scotland's first national parks, the Government's nature advisers recommended yesterday.

Scotland is one of the few countries not to give its finest landscape top-tier protection, though a Scot, John Muir, helped to found the first national parks in the United States more than 100 years ago. Bitter divisions between landowners and conservationists and the demand for local jobs have frustrated attempts to implement Muir's vision in his native land.

Suspensions linger and yesterday's proposals published by Scottish National Heritage received only guarded welcomes by the pro and anti-park camps. A final decision will be left to the Scottish Parliament. So far only the Labour Party is committed to establishing national parks.

Magnus Magnusson, SNH

By STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

chairman, none the less said he believed Scotland would have parks covering Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and the Cairngorms by 2006. "I would be surprised if the parliament jibbed at creating the first two," he said.

The two proposed parks are different in character. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs is a mix of lochs, hills and woods, near to Glasgow and the urban belt. Visitors flock in for water sports, to climb and to walk. The "Bonnie, Bonnie Banks" alone get two million a year.

The Cairngorms range, great rolling hills over 3,000ft high with deep, ice-gouged valleys, is one of the wildest tracts of land in Britain and home to rare semi-arctic plants and birds. But though subject to a plethora of special protections, its glorious Cale-

donian pines have failed to regenerate because sporting estates have encouraged too many red deer and hill paths have been eroded by walkers' boots. There has also been a long-running battle over the ski area below Cairn Gorm.

The parks would not have such powerful planning powers as their counterparts in England and Wales. Parks should be a "contract" between national and local interests, the SNH said.

Brian Parnell, chairman of the Scottish Council for National Parks, said the proposals "lacked the boldness and decisiveness" campaigners had hoped for. "There is really no way a park can be effective unless it is the planning authority," he said.

The Scottish Landowners Federation said it was "encouraging" that landowners had been recognised as part of the management process.



The beauty of the Cairngorms would be protected by national park status under Scottish National Heritage's proposals Colin McPherson

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First test for work hours ruling

AN INTERNATIONALLY respected organisation that sets standards for management techniques is to become the first employer in the country to be challenged under the working time directive, which comes into force tomorrow, for "running staff into the ground".

Union leaders accused the British Standards Institution of forcing some of its 200 managers and inspectors to work more than 100 hours a week compared with a 48-hour limit to be introduced under EU law.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union, said that staff were being run into the ground. "Of all the organisations we deal with, we would expect a body responsible for setting technical and managerial standards for industry to be a forefront of employment practice," he said. The institution's inspectors assess the techniques and products of organisations to see if they qualify for a BSI "kitemark".

Sally Kosky, also of MSF, said a survey by the union showed that 94 per cent of employees believed their jobs were more stressful and demanding than a year ago.

Union representatives have asked management for "crisis talks", but said there had been no response. A memorandum from one manager declared

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

that, under the institution's policy, staff who were not prepared to meet tough new targets needed to "review their future" with the organisation.

One member of his staff replied: "If I were to agree to achieve this increased target I would be agreeing to work an average 89 hours per week." One of the contentious issues is whether time spent driving to see clients constitutes working hours under the directive.

A spokesman for the institution said management was "not aware" that any of its employees was working more than 100 hours per week.

The spokesman said the organisation took the health and safety of its employees seriously and there were comprehensive programmes in place to deal with such issues.

A staff survey earlier this year had confirmed that employees were "happy".

The executive committee of the institution was confident that its employment practices met all its obligations under the European directive. Referring to its refusal to meet the union, the spokesman said that the "best and healthiest" relationship between BSI and its staff was a direct one with their line managers.

IN BRIEF

Fatal fire blamed on boy arsonist

A BOY WITH a history of arson was probably responsible for a fire in which he died with his family, an inquest in Leicester was told yesterday. Malcolm Harcourt, six, died in his home with his mother, Teresa, 28, and sisters Kirsty, nine, Kelly, three, and Kimberley, two.

Police face inquiry over Menzon

AN INQUIRY was under way yesterday into the way the Metropolitan Police investigated the death of a black musician, Michael Menzon, 30, was found on fire near the North Circular road in London last year. Solicitors for his family have complained about how the case was handled.

House prices still slipping

HOUSE PRICES have fallen for a second month, said Nationwide building society. They are down by 0.2 per cent this month, though in August they fell by 0.5 per cent. Sales were likely to remain flat, Nationwide said.

Eyesight eases Kidman's nerves

ACTRESS Nicole Kidman has admitted poor eyesight helped her cope with first night nerves in her London stage show - because she could not see the audience. *The Blue Room* is so popular theatre-goers are prepared to stand to see it.

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Gulf ruler's aide on death charge

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE CASE opened yesterday against a British horseracing manager employed by the president of a Gulf state, who is charged with killing his girlfriend, a former beauty queen.

Duncan Alexander, who works for Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was charged after the naked body of Kerry Blackwell was found floating in a swimming pool at 3am last March.

Ms Blackwell, 30, a former Miss New Zealand finalist, worked as a bloodstock manager for Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum, head of the royal family of Dubai and vice-president of the UAE.

Details of both the prosecution and defence cases were outlined yesterday before a court in Dubai, where Mr Alexander, 29, ran a racetrack and showjumping stadium in the desert.

It is understood that Ms Blackwell, 30, from Auckland, died after spending a night out with Mr Alexander and friends at the residential suburb of Jebel Ali, south-west of the city centre, last March. After meeting for drinks with friends, Mr Alexander and Miss Blackwell went on to a nightclub before deciding to go "skinny-dipping" in a shared pool at her villa.



The pool at the Jebel Ali complex where Ms Blackwell died

What happened next is not clear but Miss Blackwell was found floating in the pool: a nurse was called but it was too late to save her. The death certificate, sent to her parents in Auckland, said there was a large bruise on her forehead and that she died from a broken neck and the effects of shock. There were also bruises on her arms and legs.

Mr Alexander, who entered the UAE on a British passport and has dual British and Irish nationality, has told lawyers that his girlfriend of just two weeks must have died after diving into the pool, which at the shallow end is 2ft 6in deep. He was charged with her death two months later, after a post-mortem examination.

Mr Alexander, who has lived

in Dubai for about two years, was not in court yesterday for the hearing, which was conducted in Arabic. After spending five weeks on remand in a Dubai jail he is currently on bail - though the authorities have retained his passport - and yesterday could not be contacted. His solicitor has refused to speak to journalists.

The case, which has been adjourned until 22 November, has sent shockwaves through the expatriate community of the UAE, formed in 1971 from seven autonomous emirates - including Dubai and Abu Dhabi - after the withdrawal of the British colonial authorities.

While the courts will almost certainly ensure the couple's royal employers are not troubled by the case, the mix of sex,

drink, death and the links to the head and deputy head of state, has ensured the case has become a cause célèbre.

Mr Alexander, who has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, could face several years in a Dubai jail if he is found guilty.

Ms Blackwell's father, Maurice, general manager of an Auckland-based firm, has previously voiced doubts about his daughter's death.

"I was suspicious from the very beginning," he said. "Kerry had all her wits about her and I don't care how much alcohol she may have taken, I don't believe she would have made such a silly mistake as to dive head-first into a shallow pool."

But her mother, Dale Donkin, who is separated from Mr Blackwell, believes her daughter's death was an accident. "I feel terribly sorry for this young man under investigation," she said. "Kerry simply had a few drinks and made a fatal mistake about the depth of the pool. It was an accident. I am very angry that my daughter's death is being treated as something sinister when it was nothing of the kind."

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was in close contact with Mr Alexander and his family. His parents run an antiques business in Dublin.



Kerry Blackwell, who had been in the UAE for only three months when she died

Hi-tech makes yo-yos return

BY CATHY COMERFORD

PARENTS ACROSS the country are celebrating a blast from the past which has managed the impossible - tempting children away from the computer and into the fresh air.

The yo-yo is back. Children are queuing up to get one and shops are struggling to feed the demand as manufacturers report a huge increase in sales.

New high tech yo-yos have made the Tamagotchi old hat. The 1990s versions carry a clutch mechanism that makes old tricks much easier to master.

A spokesman for manufacturers Bandai said a series of skills tests or "Trickology" had revived interest. The tests required tricks to be performed in front of an audience, and were marked.

In Japan, where, according to Bandai, the latest yo-yo craze started, skilled users are performing in front of audiences of up to 40,000 children.

PMS International, which also manufactures yo-yos, reported an outstanding surge in sales. Last year the company sold only a few hundred while it expects sales to be more than half-a-million by the end of next month.

But as with all new fads some caveats apply. Today's yo-yos are not as cheap as they used to be, coming in at £7.99 for the Yomega X-Brain, which has a clutch system. And for the Metallic Missile, which is made-to-measure out of aluminium, you can expect to pay around £130.

Cost was also one of the reasons headmaster Steve Wigley from Studley Green primary school in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, banned them from his school. Mr Wigley felt the high price of some of the toys could make them socially divisive. He was also concerned about the safety of whirling yo-yos after seeing pupils with them in the playground.

Prisons act to stop inmates forming paedophile rings

BY LUCIE MORRIS

THE PRISON Service has tightened its procedures to stop paedophiles helping each other to continue preying on children.

Research for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children shows paedophile networks are being allowed to form within prisons, where abusers are segregated from other inmates.

Some jailed paedophiles have managed to establish contact with outside abusers they know and children have been brought in to them. It was suspected that the children were to be abused by the prisoners on their release and that the visit was a "preview."

The Prison Service said it had taken comprehensive action after being alerted to the danger of children visiting sex offenders last May.

It will extend its use of Smart phone technology which will let prisoners dial only approved numbers.

"We only now allow visits [to paedophiles] from their own

children," Martin Narey, director of regimes, said. "We do not allow any other children to visit them. We routinely monitor correspondence and we only allow them to make calls to certain registered numbers."

He admitted, however, that in the past it could have been possible for children to have been brought in to visit paedophiles who were not their

parents.

"As soon as we had any indication that this might be happening, we moved very quickly to prevent it happening in future," Mr Narey said.

In a preview of sections of the NSPCC report, *Grappling With Smoke*, to be released in November, the charity says 240

organised sex abuse rings may be under investigation at any one time.

The research, by Bernard Gallagher of Manchester University, an expert in organised sex abuse, highlights two cases where abusers in the community wrote to abusers in prison.

One, adopting a false name, visited paedophiles in prison.

The contacts helped in the setting up of new rings and "promoted" existing ones, and thwarted police investigations through methods including the planned harassment of witnesses in impending trials.

The report is intended to help social workers, police and others involved in dealing with organised sex crimes.

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Echoes of Thatcher as the gentleman is not for turning

ALL THAT was missing was a blond wig and a handbag.

The Prime Minister stormed through a speech - with Margaret Thatcher probably watching on television, turning to Denis and saying: "He really is one of us."

I was transported back, momentarily, to a speech delivered to a Conservative conference at exactly the same point in the then Mrs Thatcher's government - 17 months after her election.

The manufacturing industry was slowing down, jobs were being lost and exports were becoming increasingly difficult. "Wets" and other siren voices were urging a change of economic policy. Her

famous line: "The lady's not for turning" was implicitly restated by Mr Blair yesterday as Tony's not for turning.

Of course the language was slightly different. We did not have any "No Turning Back" but we did have "No Backing Down", powered out with emphasis no less than four times.

Compare the two speeches, 18 years apart: "No policy which puts at risk the defeat of inflation - however great its short-term attraction - can be right" (MT). "So we have set a tough inflation target. We will meet it. There will be no backing down." (TB).

There is no doubt that TINA

(there is no alternative) is back with a vengeance.

The build up to the speech was worthy of any American presidential convention. Only the balloons were missing. Delegates hung from the chandeliers, swung from the balconies and stood in the wings.

A dramatic video presentation with music got them in the mood before the chairman announced our hero's entrance.

Suddenly he was there; our Tony: tall, radiant, looking good, oozing confidence and smiling his great smile.

A hushed hall heard and saw him dazzle and sparkle and he got straight into his stride - standing

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

with one foot 18 inches in front of the other, gripping the lectern as firmly as his party. Many in the au-

dience may well have been bemused and still find his challenge to modernise sticks in their throats. A few did not applaud in the early stages but he is a powerful speaker and knows how to use his soft and loud pedals to advantage over his audience. He can slow the pace, speed up, sound alternatively authoritative and similarly confident without shouting.

This melts all but the sternest of critics and by the end he had the hall eating out of his hand.

Half way through he mentioned Mo Mowlam. The hall went wild, stood, belovied and clapped until their hands were red raw. He departed from his text. "That's the first

standing ovation in the middle of a speech for a person who is not even making a speech". But Mr Blair knew in advance that this interruption would give the audience an opportunity to shuffle their back-sides and get comfortable again.

Mr Blair claimed to be different from his Tory predecessors but it looked like window dressing. He chuckled a few scraps of minced gristle onto the conference floor, such as the abolition of hereditary peers. But, even here, Baroness Thatcher will chuckle approvingly. She had more than her share of runs with grandees in the Lords and will not be sorry to see some of them get their come-uppance.

The only note of possible trouble came when our leader restated the support for family values. After the debacle of the John Major "back to basics" this was brave, and he pointedly coupled this with an appeal to the media not to go a-scandal-hunting.

He built on Gordon Brown's theme of "challenge" with no fewer than 18 references ending with "we rise to the challenge together". He summoned Cherie, and John and Pauline Prescott, and milked the moment with his arm round his wife. The Prime Minister left the hall basking in glory to face down any challenge from the faint hearts in the Labour Party.

Blair's vision to reform Britain

TONY BLAIR was given a standing ovation by party supporters yesterday as he urged them and the whole nation to join him in his radical vision to reform Britain.

The Prime Minister warned there would be no backing down on economic reform and spoke of the "burdens and responsibility" of government.

In his keynote address, Mr Blair pointed to Labour pledges that are turning the tide of rising hospital waiting lists and cutting class sizes.

Mr Blair said there would be an extra £400m of National Lottery money for specialist health, education and environment projects and extra money would be used to launch a nation-wide programme to make Britain's cancer services "the best in the world".

Health

There will be a further £30m to modernise 50 accident and emergency departments next year and a new £25m instant booking system for patients.

From next year, the Government would introduce long-term agreements for delivery of services, the first 24-hour nursing helpline and a new £1bn information technology programme linking all hospitals and GPs.

We've done more than we ever promised and, where we have made promises, we are keeping them. Where we are accused of breaking them, it is over promises we never made," Mr Blair said.

He pledged that modernisation and reform would "equip our country for the future".

"This way we face the challenge together and, if the spirit of the nation is willing, it can make the body of the nation strong. One nation, one community, each and every one of us playing our part."

Education

In a tough warning to teachers who were failing children, he said there were "too few good state schools, too much tolerance of mediocrity, too little pursuit of excellence."

He urged delegates, when the Government proposed fun-

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

damental reform of the teaching profession, to "help us get it through".

Why should not head teachers turning round failing schools earn £60,000 or £70,000-a-year, he asked? "But equally if they cannot run the school properly, they shouldn't be running the school at all. I say: work with us to get it done. Don't tell us we're unprincipled and unjust. For there is no greater injustice to inflict upon a child than a poor education."

Welfare state

Outlining his vision of the welfare state, Mr Blair listed a series of problems from "often chaotic and unfair" disability benefits to an "out of date" pensions system.

But he pledged: "I did not come into politics to dismantle the welfare state. I believe in it... so when we bring forward proposals for change in our Welfare Reform Bill in the coming Queen's Speech, don't tell us it is a betrayal of the welfare state when in truth welfare reform is its only salvation."

Crime

The Prime Minister went on to announce an agreement between police, car manufacturers and the Government on a target to cut car crime by 30 per cent over five years.

He added: "And when I announce today that we will be introducing - first in 20 of the worst crime hotspots then across the whole of Britain - targeted policing that has cut burglary in Huddersfield by 30 per cent and crime on one Leicester estate by 29 per cent, don't tell us it can't be done because some of you have been doing it already. Don't show zero imagination. Help us to have a zero tolerance of crime."

Family life

Mr Blair told delegates that strong family life was the "basic unit" of a strong community and the first Government Paper on the Family would put for-

ward ideas to give practical support to parents and children, help in dealing with poverty, help in balancing work and family and action on domestic violence, teenage pregnancies and supporting marriages. He said: "Accept that whatever our individual weaknesses, our collective strength lies in making the institution of the family work for the good of Britain."

Northern Ireland

On Northern Ireland, he said a lot was still left to be sorted out but insisted the Good Friday Agreement had proven that the "only road the people of Northern Ireland wanted to march down is the road to the future". "It is that same spirit of determination, and the power of the community, that should be the country's guide now in this year of challenge".

Mr Blair warned: "When you make reform, people will oppose you. They will stand up at public meetings and be applauded for attacking you... some policies will attract attacks to the left of you, attacks from behind and in front... of course we'd rather be popular than unpopular. But better to be unpopular than wrong. And realise this."

The Prime Minister reminded delegates that in May last year the electorate voted for New Labour. "Loathing of the Tories was never enough for a landslide," he said.

"They wanted a new Labour Party. Not in the pocket of the trade unions. Not taxing them through the roof. Not chasing after every passing fad of the political fringe." Mr Blair added: "Yes, we are New Labour. But don't give me this nonsense that we're just a more moderate or competent Tory government."

"What Tory government ever put £600m into our poorest estates in order to give them a future of hope?"

"What Tory government would have raised Child Benefit by over 20 per cent? Or given free eye tests to pensioners? Or four weeks minimum holiday entitlement to

Britain's workers? And what Tory government would have been prepared to increase by 25 per cent our spending on art and museums; not for what the sneer squad call luxuries, but because we believe art and culture are a liberating, wonderful addition to human experience and an integral part of the country we are creating."

Mr Blair went on to list the National Minimum Wage, backed up with the Working Families Tax Credit, trade union recognition and increase in overseas aid as key achievements of the Government.

He said: "Deny opportunity, leave injustice or discrimination unchecked and we lay waste the genius of the nation... when a young black student, filled with talent is murdered by racist thugs and Stephen Lawrence becomes a household name not because of the trial into his murder, but because of an inquiry into why his murderers are walking free, it isn't just wrong, it weakens the very bonds of decency and respect we need to make our country strong. We stand strong together."

Europe

Arguing for a more positive attitude towards the European Union, the Prime Minister hailed Gerhard Schroeder's election victory in Germany, adding that of 15 EU countries, 13 now had centre-left governments.

"Societies based on inclusion not division. Countries that are internationalist not isolationist... this is the Third Way, our way of reconnecting people to political idealism in an age where political idealism is distrusted. It is no coincidence that the debates on devolution and Europe are happening together."

Prime Minister said across the globe nations were reshaping their identity as nation states and their future place in the world.

He stressed: "Of course we should be positive and constructive in Europe. Britain is stronger for it."

"Though Britain will take the decision on the euro in our own time and in our own national interest, meanwhile we work to make the euro succeed, prepare our business, educate our people and be free to join, if we wish to, if the economic benefits are clear." He added: "Sure, we have to reform Europe and we are winning that battle."

Mr Blair said when the EU helped Britain with trade, promoting prosperity, saving the environment, co-operating on cross-border problems like crime, it was doing what the EU should do.

But when it started interfering with every last detail of Britain's national life, "that's a Europe we can do without".

He insisted: "Decentralise where possible. Integrate where necessary... we can play a leading role with others in Europe in getting reform. The others in Europe want us to. But we can't be leaders without being partners."

Mr Blair urged the conference not to fall for the myth about choosing closer links with the US rather than the EU because being stronger in Europe meant stronger with the US. "And the stronger we stand with the US the stronger the bridge we build between our European partners and our American friends," he said.

Devolution

Reflecting on devolution, he emphasised that the "enemies of the Union are the advocates



Tony Blair at the conference yesterday where he called for 'one nation, one community'

Brian Harris

of the status quo and the separatists alike".

In a strong warning to the Scottish National Party leader Alex Salmond, Mr Blair said: "We have defeated the one and we will defeat the other. The SNP want Scotland wrenched out of the UK and relations with England, can you believe this, run by a Minister for External Affairs, as if we lived on separate planets."

"Forget for a moment the threat to jobs, to industry, when 50 per cent of Scottish trade is with the rest of the UK. It is wrong in principle. It is the wrong values."

Mr Blair said that instead of solidarity, it was separatism, isolation. The SNP looked at England as the Tories looked at Europe.

"Enough of this narrow chauvinism masquerading as idealism," the Prime Minister said.

"Scotland stronger with England. England stronger with Scotland. Standing stronger together."

"That is how the challenge of change is conquered. Not by failing to make change, but by changing in a way that gives us strength for the future - when we have devolved power to

Scotland, with proportional representation; to Wales, with PR; to Northern Ireland, with PR."

Electoral reform

Turning to the contentious issue of election reform, Mr Blair sent a stern message to Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown, who called him a "control freak" in his conference speech in Brighton last week.

He joked: "Paddy, you've been in Downing Street often enough now to know that all major speeches have to be cleared through my Press Office. This one wasn't. So I declare it inoperative."

"I believe in the co-operation we have had between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Where we agree - and there are many issues where we do - our politics should be grown up enough to say so."

He added that the forthcoming report by the Jenkins Commission on a new voting system for Westminster "should be listened to".

But he added: "Be assured. This government will decide on its response in the interests of the country, not in the interests of the Liberal Democrats."

The Prime Minister accused the Conservative Party, which has a three to one majority in the House of Lords, of arrogance.

Pointing to his willingness as Prime Minister to give up the sole power of patronage in appointing life peers, he said: "When we use the mandate the British people gave us at the ballot box to get rid of the power of those hereditary peers, I call that democracy."

"What is more, this supposed control freak will be the first Prime Minister to remove from himself the sole power of patronage in appointing peers."

The future

The Prime Minister urged his party to look at Britain through the eyes of a child growing up today.

He said: They're anxious too. More anxious than we were at their age, and no wonder.

"More violence. More crime. Drugs. Families breaking down. The old moral order under strain."

"I want for my children the Britain that you want for yours. Of course I want them to be successful, and go on to make a de-

cent living. But I want more than that.

"I want them to grow up in a country of which they feel proud. I want to build for them a country in which their children can play safely in the park and can walk home at night without fear."

"A country in which every colour is a good colour, and every member of every race able to fulfil their potential."

"A country in which the sick are cared for, and the weak are tended by the strong."

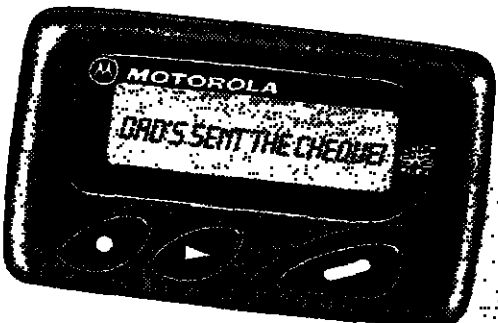
"A country in which every parent treasures their children when young, and every child cherishes their parents when old."

"That is a country to be proud of. That is a community worth the name. As our children's prospects rise, so our country's prospects rise."

"As our children grow in confidence, so our country grows in confidence. As our country grows in confidence, so the challenge doesn't seem so daunting after all. By the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone."

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Blair to meet Adams in arms

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Bill will penalise rail firms

A BILL to penalise privatised rail companies for poor services will be included in the next Queen's Speech, after the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, won a rearguard battle to save it.

Holding consultation on the Bill could delay the implementation of the measure, but Mr Prescott will make it clear to the transport unions at the Labour conference in Blackpool today that he is not retreating from the White Paper on transport.

There were reports that Mr Prescott had been forced to abandon his proposals amid fears that charging the mo-

torist could prove unpopular with Middle England voters.

But his message was reinforced by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, yesterday with his announcement that congestion charging on cars will start in London. The power to charge motorists for driving into the capital - possibly up to £5 a day - will be included in a London Bill to set up the first directly elected mayor. Mr Blair told the conference the money will be used to invest in better public transport in the capital.

Mr Prescott will face fresh demands from the unions and the constituencies for more action on the rail services operated by franchise companies, including a call by Jimmy Knapp, leader of Mr Prescott's own transport union, the RMT, for renationalisation of the railways, which will be brushed aside.

But he will tell the conference he is determined to impose tough regulations on the franchise operators, including Virgin, whose service to the North-west from London has been heavily criticised by delegates for delays to the Black-

pool conference. One train carrying Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, left Euston an hour late because there was no driver.

The unions and grassroots supporters underlined their concern about the poor service from private rail companies by choosing a transport debate as a priority to air their grievances in Blackpool. They tabled a resolution calling for the White Paper to be implemented.

Mr Prescott is keen to squeeze the "fat cats" who have made heavy profits from the privatised rail operation by the implementation of

tougher regulations on services. "He will give the rail companies a good kicking," said one ministerial source.

There will be disappointment that the Bill will be published initially in draft form, with the threat of a prolonged delay before it is enacted, but Mr Prescott is planning to reassure Labour supporters that there are many steps which can be taken without legislation to enforce better services by the privatised rail companies.

He is seeking a tougher replacement for John Swift, the regulator appointed under the Tories, who resigned this

month, after signals that he would be sacked when his contract came up for renewal in November. The draft Bill will propose a strategic rail authority to enforce higher standards of service on the private rail companies, and Railtrack, the company that runs the network.

Mr Blair sought to lay that suspicion to rest, although he warned the delegates they would face criticism at the imposition of the charges on car use.

The railways legislation is seen by Mr Prescott and his team as a vital weapon to raise the level of service to passengers, which will prove popular in

Blair to meet Adams on arms

BY COLIN BROWN

TONY BLAIR will seek to break the impasse on the surrender of IRA arms at a meeting in Blackpool today with Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin President.

The Prime Minister has invited Mr Adams and the key party leaders in the Northern Ireland peace process to his conference hotel for a series of "hot house" meetings to try to find a solution to the stand-off.

It is a mark of how far the Northern Ireland peace process has travelled that Mr Adams was invited as a guest of the party to hear Mr Blair's speech, in which he called on the political leaders to "close their ears to prejudices of their own parties and listen to the prayers of the people for peace".

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was given a standing ovation after Mr Blair praised her role in the peace settlement.

But the gap between the Sinn Féin leader and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, over the decommissioning issue was underlined by Mr Adams.

He accused the Unionists of seeking to reopen the Good Friday Agreement. He said the



Mo Mowlam acknowledges a standing ovation yesterday, watched by Robin Cook, left, and Peter Mandelson

Ian Wardie/Reuters

Unionists "cannot renegotiate. They will need to keep their promises".

Mr Adams, who heard Mr Blair's speech in an overspill hall after being delayed on his way to Blackpool, last night used a Tribune rally there to call for Mr Blair to work with him towards a united Ireland.

The Government could not claim to be a neutral "referee" between nationalists and unionists, he said. "To uphold the union means using repression, denying civil and human rights and defending equality and justice. If there is to be change there needs to be new thinking in Labour."

Mr Trimble, First Minister in the Northern Ireland Assembly, will not let Mr Adams and his deputy Martin McGuinness to join the power-sharing executive, which is stalled, until the IRA starts decommissioning.

Mr Trimble accused Sinn Féin of breaking the spirit of the agreement by so far refusing to

make headway on the issue. "If they are voluntarily saying they refuse to carry out their obligations under the agreement then there is not going to be confidence. It is a question of their need to create confidence."

Mr Blair is expected to tell Mr Adams that the Govern-

ment has made concessions to build confidence in the nationalist community by withdrawing more troops from the streets of Northern Ireland.

He will point out that the Government is keeping its side of the bargain and will say that it is time for the IRA to deliver on Sinn Féin promises.

Votes meeting scrapped

A KEY meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee was dramatically scrapped yesterday following fears that it would back a damaging motion opposing electoral reform.

The party leadership forced the cancellation when it be-

came clear that the NEC wanted to support anti proportional representation campaigners in tomorrow's crucial debate on the voting system.

The NEC embarrassed the

Prime Minister last month when its official submission to the Jenkins Commission, which is looking at the issue, came out strongly against reform and complained that proportional representation led to permanent coalition.

However, the prospect of the party's ruling body giving official approval to one side of the increasingly acrimonious row prompted officials at Labour's Millbank headquarters in London to intervene.

The meeting was due to go ahead at 7.30am yesterday, but The Independent understands that party officials panicked and placed notes calling it off under NEC members' hotel doors at 2am.

It also emerged yesterday that the set-piece debate on the issue, tomorrow, will now be as short and low-key as possible under a deal between PR opponents and Mr Blair's aides.

Hardline anti-PR unions such as the T&G, GMB, Unison

and MSF wanted a conference vote on the issue, but it became clear that the engineers union, AEEU, did not want to embarrass the Prime Minister.

The motion, which urges Labour to firmly back the first-past-the-post system, was eagerly anticipated by both pro-reform and anti-reform groups.

Party managers were keen to avoid any debate on PR at the conference, but more than 22 constituencies submitted emergency motions on the subject.

Yet as the AEEU is the official mover of the motion, it will have the final say and is likely to remit the motion, to the annoyance of its fellow unions and activists.

Instead, the compromise deal will give campaigners the chance to make their views clear in a brief, tightly regulated debate that will cause as little damage as possible. No vote will be taken.

Landowners may face access laws

MINISTERS CAME under pressure to introduce "right to roam" laws yesterday as a report revealed that landowners had failed to give greater access to the countryside.

The Environment minister Michael Meacher made clear to delegates that landowners needed to increase access to privately owned mountains, moors, heaths, downs and commons to three to four million acres.

He denied that the Government's plans to solve the dispute by voluntary agreement with landowners was a climb-down, indicating that legislation could still be introduced.

"No one is suggesting new rights to walk over ploughed fields or through gardens," he said. "But we do not accept that the legitimate rights of property owners mean that walkers have to be kept off uncultivated mountain, moorland, heath or down for any good reason."

A survey by the Ramblers'

Association, seen by The Independent, found that the landowners' "access register", compiled to prove landowners' commitment to extending access to their land, lists only paths already open to the public.

Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, said the right to walk in open country was a fundamental principle of the radical tradition in the Labour Party.

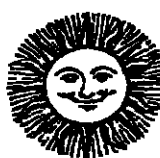
"Either we have the right to roam by the next election or we don't," he told the conference. "It is as simple as that. Even New Labour has to choose sometimes and we have to choose on this issue." He condemned the landowners' access register as a "con trick".

Twenty-five Labour MPs will stage a walk today in support of a statutory right to roam.

Mr Meacher said fines for causing pollution would rise.

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATED

GOOD DAY



◆ No doubt, **Tony Blair**: his radical vision of a new Britain was overwhelmingly endorsed by delegates

BAD DAY



◆ **Paddy Ashdown**: Mr Blair made clear that the issue of proportional representation would be decided in response of the interests of the country, not the Liberal Democrats

REBEL OF THE DAY



◆ **Rhodri Morgan**, Labour MP for Cardiff West, on the sponsorship of the conference by Somerfield: "We have gone from super Marxists to supermarkets in just 15 years"

SOUNDBITE OF THE DAY



◆ **Tony Blair** on the economy: "Backbone not backdown is what Britain needs"

BEST FRINGE MEETING



◆ **Gerry Adams**, Sports Minister **Tony Banks**, and outgoing TUC President **John Edmonds** at the Tribune Rally, chaired by newly elected NEC member **Mark Seddon**.

BEST PARTY



◆ Easily the gala dinner at the Stakis Hotel where business leaders can shake hands with the Prime Minister for £400-a-head.

CLAPOMETER

◆ **Tony Blair** topped clapometer levels with a three minutes and twenty seconds long standing ovation, with 150db

◆ Northern Ireland Secretary **Mo Mowlam** was the first Cabinet member ever to be given a 27 seconds-long standing ovation, with 90db, during a Prime Minister's speech

◆ Environment Minister **Michael Meacher** could not compete with 20-seconds applause, with 70 db



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Ref: 1297

Law and order: Penal reformers have warned against introducing 'macho policing' that could lead to inner-city riots

Blair turns to zero tolerance for crime

ZERO TOLERANCE policing is to be imposed on the 20 most crime-ridden estates and inner-city areas in England and Wales under a £32m initiative by Tony Blair yesterday.

The tough crime policy will concentrate on cracking down on persistent offenders, car crime, offences against children and black people, and anti-social behaviour.

But penal reformers yesterday warned against introducing "macho policing" that could result in "inner-city riots" and Home Office research has also questioned the effectiveness of the American style system.

In a second initiative the Prime Minister announced plans to cut the rising number of car crimes by a third over the next five years.

In calling for "zero tolerance" of crime, Mr Blair pointed

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

ed to policing strategies which had cut burglary by up to a third in places such as Huddersfield and Leicester.

Under the proposals local authorities and the police will draw up lists of the most lawless housing estates and city areas or "hot spots" from which 20 sites will be chosen to receive extra resources from next April. Crimes that will be targeted include burglary, offences at school, problems at children's homes, racial attacks, alcohol-fuelled incidents, anti-social behaviour, robbery and violence.

A number of anti-crime measures will be used to reduce lawlessness, including policing in which the authorities take action against any offence, how-

ever small, the targeting of persistent offenders, better home security and diversion projects such as special areas where teenagers can spray graffiti.

The widespread use of zero tolerance is a tacit admittance by the Government that many of the current policing tactics and the increasing number of people being jailed is failing to turn the tide on crime.

However, latest research from the Home Office warned there were "large question marks" over its long-term effects. It warned that "over zealous" policing "can lead to poor police-community relations".

Zero tolerance is based on the American "broken window" theory which argues that allowing a climate of disorder to engulf a community would lead to more serious crime.

The approach was championed in Britain by Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon in Middlesbrough who gained national prominence by his use of zero tolerance that saw the crime level fall in Cleveland.

However, the policy was criticised after Det Supt Mallon was suspended and a major inquiry was set up into allegations that officers from Middlesbrough CID were threatening suspects and offering drugs for information.

Other chief constables have also questioned the use of zero tolerance.

Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders added yesterday: "Some forms of zero tolerance involve the kind of macho policing which produced the inner-city riots in the 1980s."



A group of youngsters waiting at a bus stop on the Walpole estate in Huddersfield, yesterday

Tom Pilton

Estate where detection of crime trebled

TONY BLAIR says the Walpole estate in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, is an ideal hot spot, so perhaps it was only right that I was accosted by a 12-year-old boy two minutes after arriving. "Hey mister," said the youngster who called himself Daniel. "I want compensation. Someone's nicked me bike."

And indeed they had. An hour after Daniel "found" his new bike, someone else on the pebble-dashed council estate had decided to "find" it too.

But Daniel's artful dodging is a mere blip. Four years ago this was wild Walpole in Huddersfield's Crosland Moor area. Burglary, disorder and violent crime was through the roof. Gangs of youths roamed and terrorised with impunity.

Walpole is by no means the worst ghetto Britain has produced. It's very average. Just over 340 houses cling to the steep Walpole Road that marks the boundary for the gangs that live here.

In 1994, the Home Office chose this estate for a pilot project called "Biteback"; the theory being that most victims end up being repeatedly targeted, particularly for burglary. Huddersfield Police Division targeted burglars and protected the victims. In short, instead of blanket zero-tolerance policing it adopted quality not quantity. It worked.

Four years later, repeat burglaries are down 70 per cent, burglaries throughout the division have been halved to 2,000 and crime detection trebled.

Biteback was adopted force-wide and has been implemented by other forces.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Gregg, at Huddersfield CID, puts the success down to a new system of intelligence gathering and crime-pattern analysis. Knowledge is power, he says. And that knowledge now comes from a range of grassroots sources. Taxi drivers, postal workers, milkmen, shopkeepers and landlords have all been enlisted.

This allows Det Chief Insp Gregg's officers to take the trouble-makers out of circulation. He prefers not to use phrases such as "zero tolerance" to describe the tactics. "We don't agree with zero tolerance. There's simply no point in deploying officers at random hoping to catch someone doing something. You must target your resources effectively."

Those resources include the use of special constables who work the area building relations. A six-strong gang was caught and locked up and the trouble evaporated. After the members' release they apparently reformed their ways. A local film-maker involved then in acting and has now charted the gang's activities and experiences in a 30-minute documentary to be shown locally on the big screen and cable television.

"They've become the estate's luvvies," said one officer. "But if they had a chance of making a dodgy 50 quid, I'm sure they'd still take it."

GARY FINN

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WHAT THEY SAID

ANOTHER party conference, another crackdown on crime. A brief history of Home Secretary conference speeches of the past 20 years shows neither party has been shy about indulging in shamelessly populist rhetoric.

October 1988, Brighton. Douglas Hurd can't resist pandering to conference with pledges to introduce a new extradition law and a measure to seize terrorist funds - both of which were repeated in Jack Straw's recent anti-terror Bill. "We want to prevent London from being a haven for foreign criminals whom our friends want to bring to justice."



October 1990, Bournemouth. David Waddington tells the hangers and floggers what they want to hear. "I am absolutely sure in my own mind that some people minded to commit murder would be deterred from doing so if capital punishment existed." Mr Waddington also pre-empted Mr Straw with pledges to extend by-laws to "sweep drunken louts off the streets".

October 1994, Bournemouth. Michael Howard delivers 27-point package. Including measures to remove the right to silence. Less than half of the plan was implemented.



October 1995, Blackpool. Mr Howard goes one step further, with longer sentences for habitual offenders. "Some people won't like it. They'll say it's too tough. I've got a simple answer. If you don't want the time, don't do the crime. No half-time sentences for full-time crimes," he said.

October 1997, Brighton. Weeks before his son is arrested for drug possession, Jack Straw dismisses calls to legalise cannabis. "Drugs wreck lives, we will not legitimise their use." He promises to make race violence and harassment a specific offence. "I want zero tolerance of crime in our neighbourhoods."



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Biggest hole in ozone forecast

THIS YEAR'S ozone hole over the Antarctic is shaping up to be the biggest on record, capable of burning skin protected by factor 30 sunscreen in just 20 minutes, a British scientist warned yesterday.

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

Jonathan Shanklin, a meteorologist at the British Antarctic Survey, which first detected the development of the hole in the 1980s, also said that the northern hemisphere will suffer equally bad ozone depletion in the next 30 years, raising the incidence of skin cancer in northern Europe.

Preliminary satellite data collated by New Zealand teams in the Antarctic suggest that the hole in the layer of the upper atmosphere, which protects the Earth from the Sun's ultra violet rays, will be up to 25 per cent greater than the previous record in 1996. Then it stretched over 27m sq km - an area twice as large as Europe. It may take another 75 years for the ozone layer to recover.

The layer usually begins about 16km up, where oxygen molecules absorb high-energy ultraviolet light from the Sun. The ozone loss is caused by the presence of chlorofluorocarbons. These CFCs are molecules used as a coolant in fridges and aerosol can, which break down the oxygen. Each chlorine atom in a CFC molecule destroys an estimated 100,000 atmospheric ozone molecules, and lingers for up to 20 years.

Mr Shanklin added: "This is happening as a consequence of El Niño (a warm Pacific current that alters global weather). The stratosphere has been much colder than usual, which has led to more stratospheric clouds, and those in turn are a big factor in ozone depletion." The reaction that destroys

ozone occurs on cloud surfaces. Global warming could also contribute to ozone depletion because it causes the upper atmosphere to cool. The survey team reported earlier this month that the upper atmosphere has dropped by 8km because it has cooled as more heat is kept close to the ground by greenhouse gases.

"That causes a vicious feedback cycle which increases depletion," Mr Shanklin said.

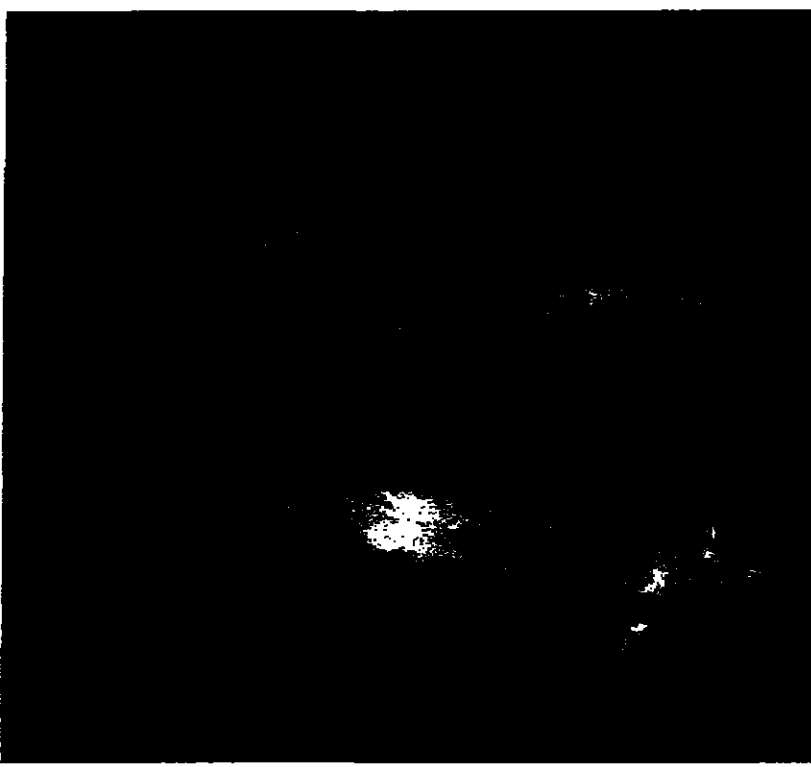
The depth of the hole is measured in "Dobson Units". The maximum reading, which occurs in the spring, is about 300 to 350 units. Each winter it falls, as the air cools and the CFCs catalyse the breakdown. The previous confirmed record low is 106 Dobson Units. Mr Shanklin said it could now fall into double digits - "which is a psychologically important figure, even though it doesn't have a physical significance".

He added: "Each DU lost means about a 2 per cent rise in the ultraviolet levels on the ground. We are talking here about 70 per cent depletion, which means more than 100 per cent increase in radiation levels." Normal ozone levels would mean being able to ski for an hour without sunscreen with only a mild risk of sunburn. The record low Dobson Unit levels would mean that, even wearing factor 30 sunscreen, a skier would burn in about 20 minutes.

Although developed nations have almost phased out their use of CFCs, developing nations, such as China, still use them, although they are committed to stopping by 2000. Yet CFC smuggling is reckoned to be one of the biggest under-cover businesses.



Wild images fly high in photo contest



FLAMINGOS flying over sand dunes (above), Sperm whale carrying calf (left) and Bull moose (right) are among 105 highly commended entries for the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition.

The event, organised by BBC Wildlife magazine and the Natural History Museum, attracted more than 20,000 images from 60 countries. The winners will be announced next month.

Marcello Calandini of Italy captured the flamingos on film in the Namib desert. Sperm whale carrying calf, by Roland Seire of France, was photographed in the Azores, and Bull moose was taken in Maine by John J Mullin of the United States.

The winning and commended pictures will be exhibited at the Natural History Museum in London from 24 October until 27 February 1999.



Custody deaths forum 'biased'

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

FAMILIES OF people who have died in police custody are furious that they are being excluded from an official conference designed to reduce the number of such deaths.

The families, who accused the Police Complaints Authority of "pro-police bias", will picket the event, called Deaths in Police Custody: Reducing the Risks.

The conference was called to address growing concerns that many of the 500 deaths that have occurred in police care or custody in the past 10 years could have been prevented.

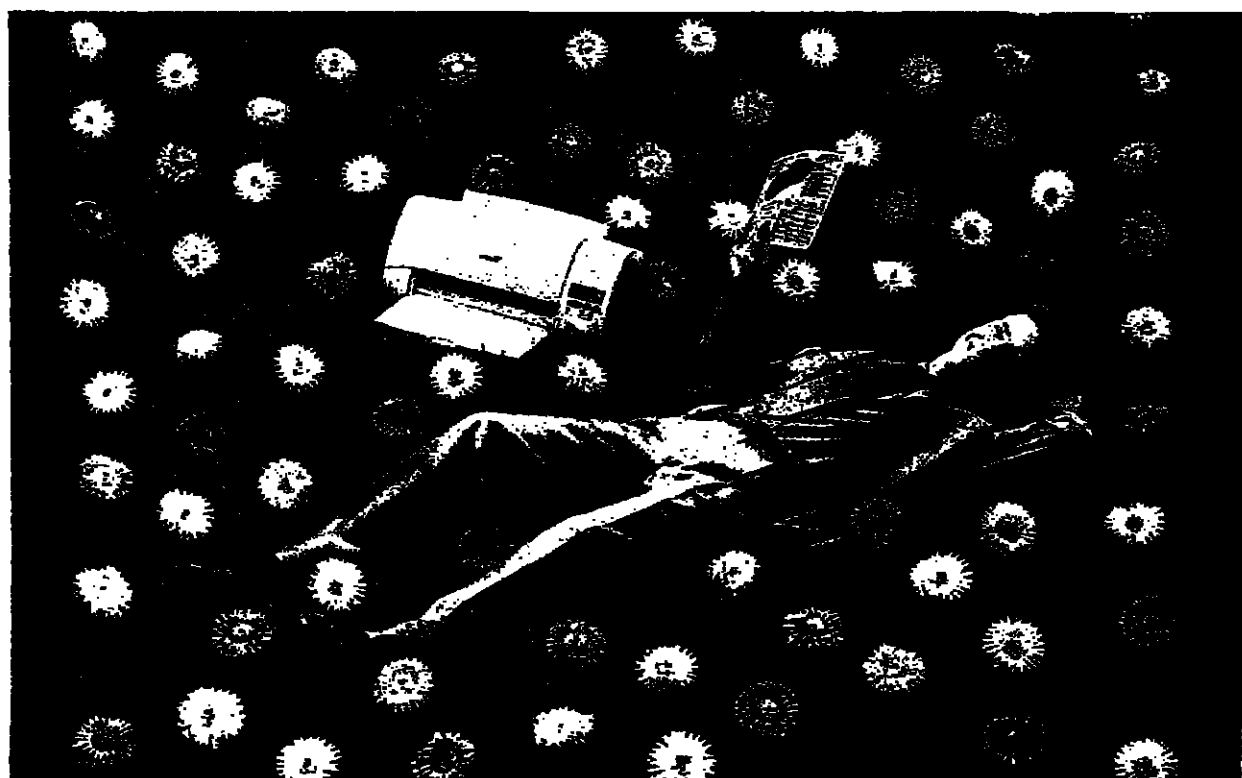
But Myrna Simpson, the mother of Joy Gardner, who died while police officers were trying to deport her as an illegal immigrant in 1993, said the event would be incomplete without the views of the families.

She claimed families had been told that they would be too emotional to attend a professional conference. Mrs Simpson said: "It is emotional every time our loved one's birthday comes around. Why should this be emotional?"

Mrs Gardner, who died after being bound and gagged with 13ft of sticking tape, is one of seven victims of deaths in custody represented by the United Families and Friends Campaign, which is organising the picket. Ken Fero, a campaign spokesman, said: "Without our voice the conference will be a one-sided talking shop of the same professionals who have failed to prevent police custody deaths in the past."

The key speakers at the event will include the Police Federation chairman, Fred Broughton; the South Wales Chief Constable, Tony Burden and Dr Michael Knight, chairman of the Police Surgeons' Association, as well as a hospital consultant and a journalist.

The event, being held at Church House in Westminster, central London, next month, is also being boycotted by Inquest, the independent organisation, which for the past 17 years has monitored deaths in custody and supported the families of victims.



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In an overflowing court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Mr Anwar said that he feared for his life after being beaten into semi-consciousness, held in solitary confinement and denied medical treatment for his injuries.

Malaysian police have been accused of using excessive

Yesterday his former speech writer and his adopted brother, who had claimed to have been sodomised by the former deputy prime minister in his official residence, were reported to have withdrawn their confessions on the ground that they were coerced. Mr Anwar's

The reform movement initiated by Mr Anwar has gained broad support from Malaysian opposition parties and human rights organisations. On Sunday, 18 of them announced the formation of the Coalition for People's Democracy.



Albania Europe

"The reason multi-drug resistant tuberculosis is rising daily in India is due to over-prescription by quacks. Many patients only come to us to die when the quacks have finished with them," Dr Chawla said.

One of the arrested was legislator KM Obsaidur Rahman, a leader of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The two others were Nurul Islam Manjur of the BNP and Shah Moazzem Hossain, a former deputy prime minister and leader of the smaller faction of the opposition Jatiya party, their families said.

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• **Prevalence** = the proportion of a population that has a disease at a particular point in time

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

^a $\chi^2 = 0.67$, d.f. = 1, $p = .41$.

...the fact that the *in vitro* and *in vivo* results are in good agreement, and that the *in vivo* results are in good agreement with the results of the *in vitro* studies.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Therapy literature and

Greens rush to set agenda

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

SUDDENLY, EVERYBODY is in a hurry in Germany. Gerhard Schröder, winner of last Sunday's general elections, says he will be rushing to Berlin in April, five months before the government's scheduled move to the resurrected capital.

The Greens, too, are pressed for time. Even before the first meeting of their parliamentary group yesterday, several Green MPs were offering urgent advice to a government that has yet to be formed. "There must be very quick decisions, to make it clear that things are changing in Germany," said Claudia Roth, one of the new MPs.

Ms Roth, a former member of the European parliament and a leading representative of the Greens' fundis wing, the so-called fundamentalists, is especially impatient with her future coalition partners' dithering over nuclear power. "We need to legislate for the closure of nuclear plants, and we need to make it quite clear that some of these plants will be closed down immediately," she said.

She was speaking to *The Independent* shortly before joining her colleagues in the first meeting of the parliamentary party since the elections. Green MPs had conferred on Monday night, but are split along fundis and realos - the so-called pragmatists - lines.

How the 47 of them will combine, and how they can co-operate with Mr Schröder's Social Democrats have become the central questions in German politics. The answers will define the speed of Mr Schröder's progress through the minefields of government.

The early signs do not seem encouraging. The Greens' leadership yesterday demanded four out of 16 cabinet posts, one



The Greens' spokespersons Juergen Trittin (left) and Gunda Roestel before the start of a party meeting in Bonn yesterday

Reuters

more than expected. They put employment and a new nationality law at the top of their list of priorities, followed by the eco-tax on petrol, and nuclear power.

The latter looks set to provide the sternest test for the coalition-builders. On this issue at least, Mr Schröder is in no haste. The SPD has pledged to "phase out" nuclear power, maybe over 10 years.

It had been expected that, in the spirit of give and take,

some minor concession will be sold to his members. Although they have come a long way from their organic vegetable patches, the Greens remain an unconventional party. So unconventional, that their membership sets the party line, and the leaders have to toe it.

The structure of the party is diffuse and painstakingly democratic. Genders have to be balanced in every post, as do the regions and the two wings. The

facto leader, knows what can be sold to his members. Although they have come a long way from their organic vegetable patches, the Greens remain an unconventional party. So unconventional, that their membership sets the party line, and the leaders have to toe it.

The structure of the party is diffuse and painstakingly democratic. Genders have to be balanced in every post, as do the regions and the two wings. The

fundis are nowhere near as dogmatic as their predecessors 20 years ago, but they try hard to live up to the label. Half the team of 12 that sits down to negotiate with Mr Schröder on Friday are fundis.

Even then, the Social Democrats might not discover the Green bottom line. Ms Roth thinks, for instance, that even if Mr Fischer becomes Foreign Minister, her wing of the party will not be entirely reas-

sured. "Foreign policy will be difficult," she says. "We have different ideas concerning the Bundeswehr, and security structures in Europe." They want to abolish conscription and to water down Nato's role.

The fundis have other ideas, too. They will not scupper a coalition deal, because the Red-Green project is too important for all participants, but they are certain to apply the brakes to Mr Schröder's progress.

Hanson fury at sit-in by journalists

DAYS BEFORE Australia's general election, Pauline Hanson called in the police and declared a media blackout on the rest of her campaign when reporters refused to leave the campaign launch of her anti-immigration One Nation party.

The senior citizens' centre in Gatton, west of Brisbane, was the scene of a tense stand-off as journalists, weary of being deprived of interviews and information from the Hanson campaign, staged a sit-in.

Journalists assigned to cover Ms Hanson's campaign have heard promises of government spending to bring relief to hard-pressed rural communities, but no detailed costings. Trouble flared when a breakdown of One Nation's budget plans, due to be given out to news crews covering the launch, failed to materialise.

David Oldfield, a Senate candidate in New South Wales, promised to fax a document to newsrooms later that day, insisting the media leave to allow supporters to conduct their meeting.

But correspondents assigned to the Hanson trail have become a battle-hardened bunch, often keeping track of the campaign by guesswork as the self-styled Mother of Australia has plotted an unpredictable course across the country. A stalemate ensued until two members of the Queensland Police department advised the pack to wait in the blazing sunshine for a glimpse of her quarry, who was smuggled away through a side exit.

Yesterday's shambolic scenes were seen as a crude attempt by One Nation to subvert media ef-

BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

orts to scrutinise the political process and to use "mob rule" to intimidate journalists.

Many trace Ms Hanson's reluctance to give interviews to the emergence of One Nation policies, such as a proposal to run Australia's public finances on the basis of a flat rate "easy tax" on all transactions, including salary or wages as well as the purchase of goods and services.

Since details of her ideas began to emerge, her opinion poll standing has halved to its present 8 per cent, and party supporters, including her neighbouring parliamentary candidate Colene Hughes, now see the easy tax as an aberration.

After the meeting, Ms Hughes gave an insight into the perceptions that drive the One Nation bandwagon. On race, the party maintains it wants equality for all - meaning an end to affirmative action and government-funded programmes to improve the lot of Australia's indigenous population. "I have three step-nieces and step-nephews who are as black as the ace of spades," Ms Hughes said, by way of vouchsafing her anti-racist credentials.

The problem was hand-outs to Aborigines and those who "jumped on the bandwagon" claiming Aboriginal descent on the basis of one black ancestor, which bred resentment among whites. When One Nation's policy document finally arrived in Australia's newsrooms the chief proposed saving from existing budgets was to cut A\$1.5bn from support for indigenous affairs.

Albanian, 30, set to be Europe's youngest PM

PANDELI MAJKO, Albania's 30-year-old Socialist Party secretary-general, is about to become Europe's youngest head of government.

Mr Majko, who took part in the 1990 student protests that helped to bring down the Stalinist regime, has never held government office. But as head of the Socialist parliamentary group since elections in June 1997, and the party's secretary-general, he has worked closely with the outgoing Prime Minister, Fatos Nano, and is a key, if low-profile, figure in the country's politics.

Nano resigned on Monday night after failing to get the

backing of his five-party coalition for a cabinet reshuffle in the wake of an eruption of political violence two weeks ago.

The Socialists, whose coalition has a comfortable parliamentary majority, nominated Majko as their candidate to succeed Nano yesterday, and his appointment by President Rexhep Meidani appeared to be a formality.

Western diplomats believe the fact that Majko is untainted by past association with the Communist regime that ruled for four decades could enable him to improve Albania's highly polarised political climate.

His appointment should re-

move a factor that has poisoned Albanian politics since the Nano coalition took office 14 months ago: the personal animosity between the outgoing Prime Minister and the former president Sali Berisha.

"He's a technocrat, open, well-disposed towards the outside world," said a Western diplomat. "His English is quite good, and he doesn't have the baggage that people in their fifties and sixties have."

Another diplomat said: "Majko represents a new generation, the generation of students who toppled the Communist regime. He represents hope for Albania."

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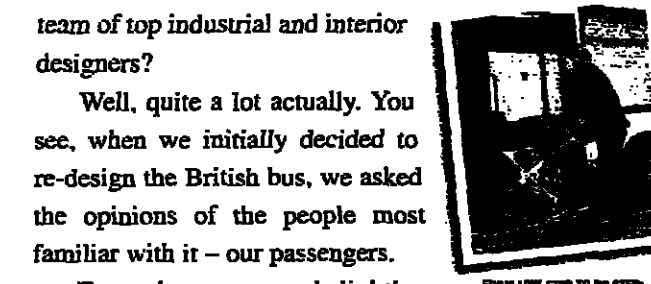
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Right threatens West Bank accord

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU will spend today, Yom Kippur, the most contemplative day of the Jewish year, calculating how to call the bluff of his right-wing coalition partners who are threatening to bring him down if he agrees to hand over more West Bank territory to the Palestinians.

The Israeli Prime Minister's White House summit on Monday with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and President Bill

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem
and ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Clinton set the stage for a showdown that Mr Netanyahu has evaded for the past 19 months. At the Washington summit, Mr Arafat accepted a modified version to a United States peace proposal in which Israel will withdraw its troops from 13 per cent of the West Bank.

Aharon Domb, general secretary of the West Bank and Gaza settlers' council, warned the Israeli leader: "If there is a withdrawal, there will be no government."

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders will return to Washington in mid-October, accompanied by advisers, for a replay of the 1978 Camp David conference, which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. On that occasion, President Jimmy

Carter kept Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat secluded in his Maryland retreat for 13 days until they were ready to sign.

The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is coming to the Middle East next week to sustain the momentum and settle as many points still in dispute as possible before the next summit. Mr Clinton said on Monday that there had been a "significant narrowing of the gaps".

all sides of the Israeli debate is that there is a real chance of a breakthrough which would balance a 13 per cent Israeli withdrawal with more vigorous efforts by the Palestinians to curb Islamist violence.

Israel's Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, predicted yesterday that it would "surely be possible to reach a package of deals in a number of areas" during Mrs Albright's visit.

But hardline coalition opponents of the Oslo agreement will do their best to prove him wrong. "We say no," said Hanan Porat, a leader of the National Religious Party, the third biggest in the coalition, with nine MPs. "If the government decides on this withdrawal, we won't be able to be partners to this government, and that means there will be elections."

With Mr Netanyahu's parliamentary base already eroded to a precarious 61 out of 120, the dissidents could force a dissolution if the Labour and other left-wing opposition parties joined them in voting against the Prime Minister.

Assuming, however, that he seals an agreement that satisfies Mr Arafat, the government is unlikely to fall in the short term, as opposition MPs would vote for the deal.

The question is whether the

left-wing parties will shore him up when he is challenged on other issues. They have been striving for months to bring Mr Netanyahu down.

Credit card saga grips courtroom

FOR THE past two weeks, the Santa Monica courthouse has been gripped by the spectacle of Susan McDougal - the Arkansas businesswoman who recently emerged from jail for her role in the presidential Whitewater scandal - defending herself against accusations that she embezzled more than \$150,000 (£90,000) from the contractor Zubin Mehta and his wife Nancy while working as their assistant in the late Eighties.

Reams of financial documents and credit card bills have stripped the mystique from the Mehtas' personal spending habits, much as the Kenneth Starr report has revealed Bill Clinton's more intimate secrets.

Thus we learn that Nancy Mehta, herself a former actress, became so enamoured of a mattress she slept on in a hotel in Italy that she spent tens of thousands of dollars having it shipped from the Swiss manufacturer to Los Angeles.

Then there are the contested purchases - everything from a computer to a Barbie doll - that Ms McDougal may or may not have bought for her own purposes with her erstwhile friend and employer's money.

Did Mrs Mehta know she was paying to fix Ms McDougal's mother's teeth or to put her up in a Los Angeles hotel? No, was her unequivocal answer in court.

According to the prosecution, Ms McDougal spent as much as \$10,000 a month on a credit card that Mrs Mehta did not even know existed. She

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

then paid off the bills by forging Mrs Mehta's signature on her cheque book. "I thought, how could she pay \$10,000 a month on this card?" Mrs Mehta testified. "Then I realised - I'm paying for it."

Ms McDougal's lawyers forced Mrs Mehta to admit that several employees were authorised to use credit cards. The picture that the defence is building up is of a household with little, if any, control over its finances, with everything run on verbal agreements.

Effectively, the case boils down to one woman's word against another. In court, they have styled themselves as polar opposites; the dark-haired Ms McDougal sporting a cream suit, while Mrs Mehta, a blonde, turned up in prosecutorial black. Judge Leslie Light, also a former actor, has added his own flourishes, apologising for his constant interruptions.

Although the two affairs have nothing to do with each other, Ms McDougal's reputation is inevitably coloured by her role in the Whitewater affair. She refused to testify against the Clintons over the long-running land deal and spent 18 months in jail for her pains. Now she faces 12 criminal charges, including fraud and failure to file tax returns, and could face another seven years behind bars if convicted for all of them.



An American television reporter wades through flooded downtown Mobile, Alabama street as Hurricane Georges battered the area

Reuters

Tornadoes follow in Georges' wake

HURRICANE GEORGES, which had lashed the Gulf coast of the United States in the early hours of Monday, was downgraded to a tropical storm yesterday as its swirling winds dropped below 50mph.

But the storm system lingered over southern Alabama, bringing as much as 30 inches of rain to counties south of the state capital, Montgomery, and the Florida Panhandle, and a rash of tornadoes.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Montgomery

Residents were advised to remain indoors; schools, and businesses remained closed, and the thousands of people who had moved inland under the hurricane evacuation order were instructed to wait before returning home.

Extensive flooding cut even main roads and many secondary roads were submerged.

Tornado warnings flashed on to television screens by the hour. In the event of people being caught outside with a tornado bearing down, the advice was "as a last resort, lie on the floor, or flat in a ditch, and cover your head if you're in a car, don't think you can outrun it; take cover immediately."

In the coastal cities of Mobile and Biloxi, flooding caused by the storm-surge had subsided, leaving behind trails of wreck-

age, including industrial containers toppled on their sides and trees washed up by the seas. Returning townspeople were warned of the risk of snakes and insects.

Flood warnings remained in force, with the new risk coming from rivers swollen by 48 hours of rain, equivalent to six months' normal rainfall for the area.

Forecasters expressed the fear that Georges could regenerate itself as a hurricane

if it reached the Atlantic ocean without losing much more strength. Gusts of up to 70mph were being felt in the Montgomery area.

Across the Gulf coast region more than 680,000 people were without power yesterday, with little hope of supplies being restored before today at the earliest.

Airports remained closed, and bus and train services, suspended since Sunday, were

expected to resume gradually in coming days.

The areas worst affected by Hurricane Georges, from Puerto Rico in the east to the Florida Keys to the Gulf coast, have now all been declared federal disaster areas by President Bill Clinton, allowing them to claim central assistance.

In contrast to the Caribbean, where the hurricane caused more than 300 deaths, only four died in the US.

Bees bring taste of honey to inner city

HIS BEE-KEEPER'S smoker puffing blue clouds in one hand and a flat metal hook in the other, David Graves snags a frame deep inside the hive and, ever so gently, lifts it out. What he finds delights him - a perfect comb fairly laden with dark, oozing honey. "This," he declares, "would win a prize in a show."

Although October has nearly arrived, the bees are still hard at work scouring their surroundings for blossoms and the nectar deep inside them. But then that is one of the reasons why the hive is here, rather than in some woody glade deep in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, where Mr Graves actually lives. There, it is cold already. Here, summer has still to make its exit.

Believe it or not, we are on the roof of a hut in a community garden in the less-than-pastoral Lower East Side of Manhattan. All around are tenement buildings, some abandoned and waiting for the wrecking ball, others vibrating with the sounds of Latin music and children out of school. In the garden itself, the shrubs occasionally stir,

not with the gentle winds but with the scurrying beneath of outsize rats.

This has been the second summer of Mr Graves' unusual experiment. A regular at the various farmers' markets that are thriving around Manhattan, he is the only vendor to offer local honey that is, well, really local. His customers, though sceptical at first, have come to love it; so much that they happily pay \$5 (£3) for half a pound of the stuff, twice what he asks for honey produced back in the Berkshires.

It all started because of honey-hungry black bears. When their assaults on his hives in Massachusetts got too much, he moved a few to the roof of his father's house. "Then I thought, 'Gee, there are lots of roofs in New York City. Why not put some of the hives up there?'"

The difficulty was persuading enough people to take the bees. "It's hard for people to visualise me putting a hive on their rooftop. Most people think they are dangerous, because they can't distinguish between bees and yellow-jackets (wasps) and hornets. A honey bee is very unlikely to

AMERICAN TIMES NEW YORK



David Graves among his New York City bees

attack. But I couldn't put them on street level. Someone would get too close to the hive and get stung."

One morning, Mr Graves

put a mini-hive, jammed with bees, on his stall with a sign that read: "We need a home. We're very gentle and would love to share our New York

honey. Do you have a rooftop?" Gradually, takers began to come forward. Such as the old lady who offered space on the balcony of her 32nd-floor home in a posh Upper West Side apartment building. And the couple who thought a hive on the roof of their brownstone would be educational for their daughters. Now he has seven hives in Manhattan and Brooklyn and one on the roof of a school in the Bronx. The hotel he sometimes sleeps in next to Union Square took one too. "Sometimes I'll open a jar when I'm selling on the square and the bees will come and visit. I say to people, 'Look, that's one of my bees'. Blind taste tests conducted here and in Massachusetts have borne out customers' claims that the city honey is better than the country variety."

Mr Graves sees several reasons for the superior quality. Above all, he says, it is the climate, the early spring and the lingering summer. And what the bees have in the city is what humans flee it for - "they are not stressed". For one, they have easy access to water here. Moreover, Mr

Graves says, they benefit from the sheer variety of flowers. "There are so many parks in New York, plus people seem to be planting everywhere." His bees will travel up to five miles from the hive for nectar, giving them a search area full of treasure, whether in potted gardens on hidden patios or across the East River in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. He has had the occasional problem. When the buzz of the bees on the West Side balcony came to the notice of the building's owners, the old lady was forced to return the hive. Some customers still wonder about pollutants in the honey. But they worry needlessly, he says. "The bees find nectar deep down in the blossoms and they are not on them long enough to pick up any pollutants," he insists. Moreover, no farming in the city means no pesticides. "I'd be much more worried putting a hive next to an orchard in the Berkshires, where they'd be spraying, than on a roof here."

As for the rats, he runs like hell when he sees them. But why should the bees care?

DAVID USBORNE

IN BRIEF

Czech priest's jail term increased

AN APPEALS court in east Bohemia in the Czech Republic has found a Catholic priest guilty of sexual abuse of three boys and sentenced him to four years in prison. Pavel Smekal, 39, was sentenced already in June to three years in jail. He appealed the verdict, but the court in Hradec Kralove, 62 miles east of Prague, raised the previous sentence by one year yesterday.

Islamist faces incitement charges

TURKEY'S TOP prosecutor yesterday called for fresh charges to be brought against the popular Islamist mayor of Istanbul, already sentenced to 10 months in jail for sedition. The prosecutor, Vural Savas, recommended that Mayor Recep Tayyip Erdogan be tried for inciting his supporters to violence against him last week. Turkey's secularist prosecutors have launched a legal assault on leading Islamists since the government they led collapsed last year.

Hutu attack kills 14 in Burundi

HUTU REBELS killed 14 people, including eight who were burned to death, in two separate weekend attacks just south of Burundi's capital Bujumbura, officials said yesterday. The administrator of the Kanyosha commune, nine miles south of the Bujumbura, said rebels burned alive eight people in an attack on Saturday night, and killed another six people in his commune or province on Sunday. Two of the victims were local government officials, officials said.

Attempt to heal Orthodox schism

THE HEADS of the world's Orthodox churches are to meet in Sofia this week to try to mend a schism among the Bulgarian clergy. Bulgaria's Orthodox Church is split into supporters of Patriarch Maxim, and a rebel group who say Maxim was appointed in 1971 by the communist dictator Todor Zhivkov. They enthroned a rival patriarch, Pimen, in July 1996.

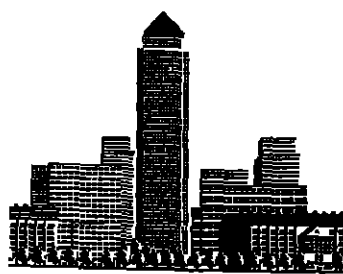
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Good news for London could be bad

GOOD NEWS. London has consolidated and improved on its position as the world's leading international financial centre. Bad news. As a result, it is going to be hit that much worse by the present contraction in global capital markets.



OUTLOOK

New figures from the Bank of England show that London is still streets ahead of its rivals in terms of turnover for foreign exchange and over-the-counter derivatives. In foreign exchange, for example, the UK market's average daily turnover of \$637bn was more than the next three competitors combined. In over-the-counter derivatives, London's daily average trade of \$171bn is almost twice as much as the US figure. And London's growth rate in these complicated instruments is also mind-boggling - a whopping 131 per cent over the last three years. This figure is only bettered by the Germans with 162 per cent and the Swiss with a huge 256 per cent increase, but they are coming at it from a much lower base.

the belief that London is now so far ahead of its rivals in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan that it cannot be caught. The trouble is that these figures were compiled in April. Since then the world has moved on a touch. The obvious problem with London's great dash for growth in derivatives is that it leaves the Square Mile more exposed to a downturn than any other financial centre.

Britain is already in recession as far as manufacturing is concerned and you don't have to spend any more than five minutes with the in-

vestment banking community to realise the City is heading that way at a pace of knots too. The Bank of England is right to feel pleased with these figures, but they aren't going to look so hot this year.

Goldman Sachs

JON CORZINE, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, has plainly lost the battle, but has he also lost the war? Mr Corzine has spent several years attempting to persuade his fellow partners that the future for the world's best known investment bank lay as a publicly-quoted company rather than an old-style partnership. Eventually a convincing majority agreed with him, but they did so too late to make it happen. By the time they'd made up their minds to sell, nobody wanted to buy.

As always in such circumstances, it proved difficult for senior partners to admit this. As it happens, Goldman Sachs is less up its own what-sit than many of its peers in investment banking: its people are

as savvy and switched on a breed as it is possible to find. But even so, they are not used to failure and the realisation that they had their timing so badly wrong has been a humbling one.

None of this means that Goldman Sachs is flawed in its strategy of flotation, or that the plan is now buried for good. Indeed, if Goldman Sachs is going to prosper, grow and consolidate its position in the next upturn, it has to float. As for the present business cycle, Goldman Sachs has obviously missed its chance, but bad though things now look, this is not the end of capitalism, or global capital markets.

The immediate outlook is rocky, but ultimately the experience will prove a cathartic one. Capital markets will emerge strengthened and rejuvenated, and when they do, the opportunities for investment banks - in terms of reorganising global industries, savings, international trade and restructuring emerging economies - will be as rich and varied as ever. The most forward-looking businesses are already looking

beyond the present malaise to a time when they can meet that challenge. If Goldman Sachs is going to be up there with Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Travellers, as it presently is, it's going to have to float.

Access to capital is part of the reason, although it is obviously the case that you don't necessarily need your shares to be quoted to obtain capital on favourable terms. Transparency is another. Part of the process of rebirth for capital markets is going to be much greater disclosure. In such a world, an old fashioned and secretive partnership is going to look out of place and out of date.

But most important of all, human nature requires value recognition and the only mechanism we have for assessing it is the market. Most active and sleeping partners at Goldman Sachs want a value put on their stakes, and non partners want a share of the spoils to bind them in. Again, flotation is the only way to achieve this.

The IPO is on the back burner for the time being, but it is a racing certainty that in three to four years'

time, Goldman Sachs will indeed be a publicly quoted company.

Rover

TRUST ROVER to lower the tone on the opening day of the Paris Motor Show. Renault and Michelin may be celebrating their centenaries and Porsche its half century but the mood over at BMW Rover's German owners, was anything but festive.

Bernad Pischetsrieder, the urbane chairman of BMW, has every reason to be grim. He bought Rover in a haze of sentimental attachment to its illustrious predecessors, the Wolseley and Riley, but quickly discovered that the current model is not in quite the same league.

The R75 - the successor to the uninspired 600-800 series - is Rover's next great hope and goes on show in Birmingham in three weeks' time. But as luxury executive saloons go, it will be a pale imitation of the real thing, the latest Mercedes S-class, which is also getting its first outing in Paris.

Four-and-a-half years on, all BMW has to show for its £4bn of investment in Rover is mounting losses of perhaps as much as £500m this year and a faint hope that its purchase will turn the corner some time in the millennium with the aid of a revamped version of a 40-year old car, the Mini.

Meanwhile, the Rover workforce is being fed on a diet of bad news, with more cutbacks due in the next fortnight on top of the 1,500 job losses and four-day week announced in July. Amid the wreckage, the one consolation for Mr Pischetsrieder is the performance of Land Rover. But at some point his shareholders have to ask whether BMW might not have spent their money better building its own entry into the 4x4 market from scratch.

It is hardly time yet to press the panic button, and BMW remains a highly profitable brand. But with the millstone of Rover around his neck, Volkswagen's Ferdinand Piech knocking at his door, and Daimler married to Chrysler, Mr Pischetsrieder must be starting to feel the heat.

China cracks down on currency flow

CHINA IS bolstering its currency by ordering mainland companies to remit all foreign currency earnings held abroad to China by tomorrow.

The move is part of a crackdown on foreign exchange abuses that are putting pressure on the Chinese yuan.

Wu Xiaoling, director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said yesterday that foreign currency fraud and "disorderly capital flow" had increased this year, prompted by "psychological expectations" of a devaluation of the yuan.

The government in Peking is standing firm that there will be no devaluation this year, but Chinese companies and individuals have been increasingly keen to hoard dollars. It has always been illegal for Chinese firms to hold foreign earnings abroad, but previously this has not been a big issue.

Ms Wu also revealed yesterday that private foreign exchange holdings inside China had reached about \$80bn, compared with the government's forex reserves of \$140bn.

The rest of the world will support any moves to shore up the Chinese yuan, whose stability is seen as a lynch-pin in preventing further economic turmoil in Asia. Ms Wu reaffirmed yesterday that the economic fundamentals did not support the need for a devaluation, and that "devaluing the yuan will bring more disadvantages than advantages". However, she added:

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

"No one can promise whether a currency will devalue or not." China's economy and rate of export growth have both suffered because of the crisis in Asia, but the trade surplus for the first eight months of 1998 was still US\$31.4bn.

Yesterday's crackdown was aimed at businesses, not individuals, and may inconvenience foreign-invested enterprises in China as trade documents for customs declaration forms above \$100,000 are scrutinised for irregularities. The Chinese yuan is convertible on the current but not the capital account, so trade deals are a means to circumvent currency controls.

Ms Wu said that "billions" of US dollars of false customs declaration forms had already been discovered, as people used false import documents to obtain foreign currency. "It is not beneficial to a country's economy if it is under attack by illegal capital flow," she said.

Ms Wu's measures are aimed at defensive moves by Chinese companies, who fear a devaluation. These include paying for imports in advance, delaying taking payment for export earnings, and paying off forex loans early. Inside China, the yuan has been weakening on the resurgent black market, with up to 9 yuan to the US dollar in the south, compared with 8.28 for trade transactions.

IN BRIEF

Logica with £15m Shell contract

LOGICA, the fast-growing information technology consultancy, has won a major £15m computer support contract with Shell's UK exploration and production arm. Under the five-year deal - due to be announced today - Logica will take responsibility for maintaining and supporting all of Shell's computer applications, both onshore and offshore. The agreement brings 60 different contracts within Shell under Logica's control.

British Land buys City landmark

BRITISH LAND is buying the headquarters building of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, famous for its marble decor, for £206m. The building at One Exchange Square, Bishopsgate, was previously owned by DGI, the management company for Deutsche Bank's Open Ended Property Fund.

Amstrad blames digital TV

AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics firm where Alan Sugar is chairman, yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £1.14m for the year to June as it invested heavily in new product development. Finance director Martin Bland said the loss reflected a £1m investment in developing digital set-top box decoders for British Sky Broadcasting and other telecoms products, both of which go on sale shortly.

Levi Strauss closes jeans plants

LEVI STRAUSS is to close three plants in Belgium and one in France due to production overcapacity and high costs. The American jeans giant, which has begun talks with the works committees of the plants involved (as required under European Union rules), said it had not decided how many jobs would go. Two plants in Texas will also close. It has already closed 10 assembly centres this year.

Daiwa cuts 50 London jobs

DAIWA SECURITIES, Japan's second-largest brokerage, confirmed it is to cut its overseas workforce to 1,000 from 1,800 by March 2000, as it seeks to focus on Japan, where competition in the brokerage industry is intensifying as a result of the "Big Bang" financial reforms. Fifty jobs are to go in London and it will close 12 of its 30 overseas offices to reduce annual overseas operating costs by 43 per cent. Daiwa Europe also said it planned to pull out of all non-yen denominated fixed-income activities apart from sales to Japanese clients.

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News analysis: The near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management has tarnished the image of hedge funds

Defending a sinking reputation

NOT ALL hedge funds are highly leveraged monsters lurking out of control.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

Although most of them have been hit by the global financial crisis, 13 of the top 20 funds, including some of the biggest, are still showing gains - this in a year when a fund manager investing in UK or US stocks would have seen all their gains wiped had they performed in line with their respective indices.

Some hedge funds, such as Julian Robertson's Tiger Fund, which takes big bets on global market trends, are actually ahead on the year, and faring better than conventional fund managers.

Mr Robertson is up 30 per cent in the year to August and still 19 per cent ahead today.

PDF, a smaller fund run by the little-known Peter Putron in London, which took out sell orders in Dresdner Bank shares, has performed particularly well. Dresdner lost badly as a result of Long Term Capital Management's crisis and its shares fell sharply.

While there are fears that some hedge funds are close to collapse,

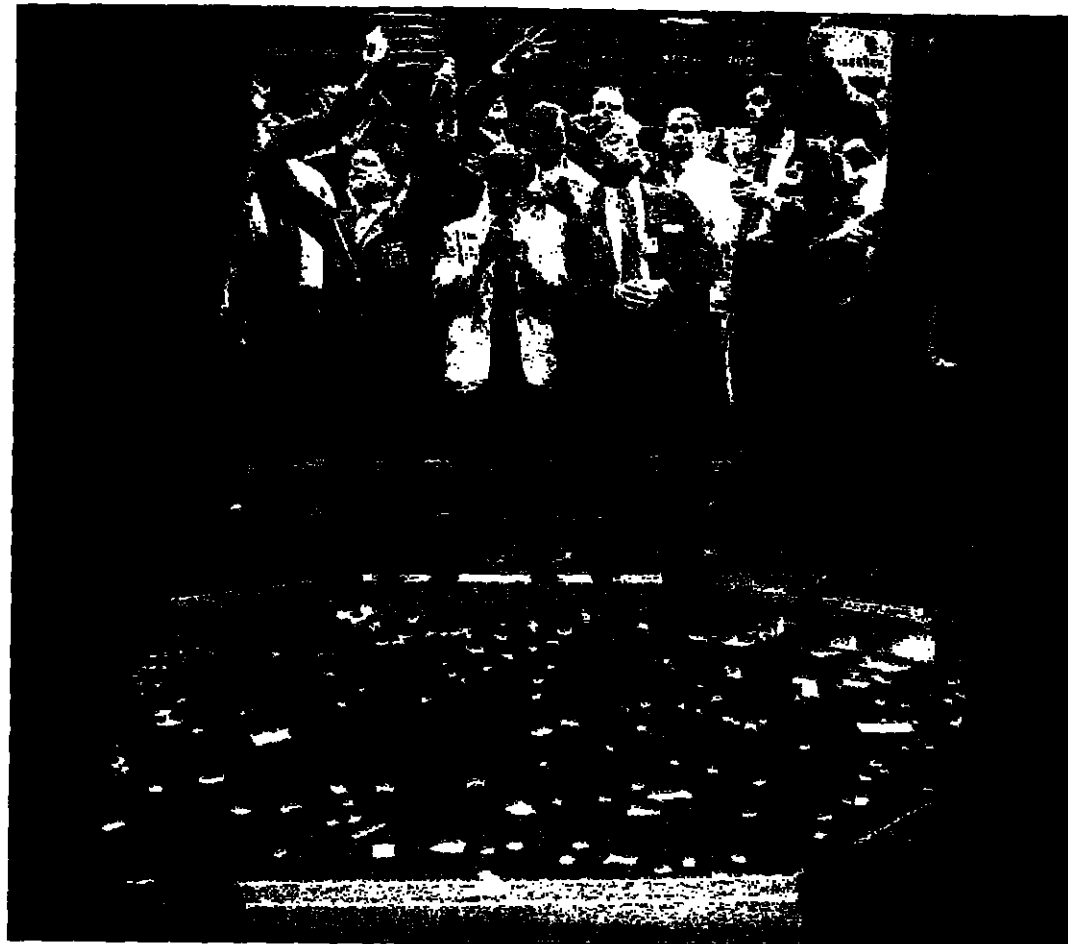
senior bankers involved in the Long Term Capital Management bail-out say they are too small to wreak the havoc that Long Term Capital Management would have done had it gone down.

Blair Tomlinson, a former bond dealer now observing from the sidelines at London-based consultancy Financial Risk, says: "Hedge funds, as a group, do not pose a systemic threat. There is no-one out there who compares in size or leverage to Long Term Capital Management."

But even he admits: "That does not mean somebody out there won't go under."

Paul Tudor Jones, the manager and former cotton futures trader who has done relatively well, finds it irritating to see all hedge funds tarred with the same brush.

Likewise Warren Mosler, who runs his III Opportunities stable of funds from West Palm Beach in Florida, has accused banks of actively trying to close him down. But if hedge fund managers



While Long-Term Capital Management may be seeing its losses scattered across the trading room floor, 13 out of the top 20 hedge funds are still showing gains

complain they are misunderstood they have only themselves to blame.

George Soros, the well-known hedge fund manager, famously told a Senate committee that regulators had no right to poke their nose in a business that clearly was not designed for widows and orphans.

There are three main types of hedge funds:

● **Equity long-short:** not unlike conventional stock-picking fund managers except that they short stocks they don't like as well as buying ones they do, and seek to balance their bets overall. Some of these have done well this year although whether that is sustainable

in a long-term bear market is a moot point.

● **Speculators (often called global):** these tend to be governed by the manager's view of global political developments and are more sensitive to political upsets such as changes in government.

They tend to invest in instruments such as currencies and

HEDGE FUND PERFORMANCE				
Hedge funds aggregated	Assets \$bn	August returns %	Yr to date returns %	Fund type
Tiger Management	15.136	1.01	30.77	Global Macro
Soros Asset Mgr	13.959	-13.11	0.93	Global
Moore Global Investment	4.000	-2.75	12.82	Global Macro
Zweig-Dimenna Int'l	2.603	-22.58	-7.10	Global
Everest Capital	2.500	-44.44	-53.78	Global
Ill Fund	2.418	-1.57	2.15	Market neutral
Ainslie LP	2.350	-9.19	10.93	Global
Sloane Robinson Investment Mgt	2.099	-3.79	-6.41	Global
Perry Partners	2.076	-6.39	3.19	Event driven
CDC Investment Mgt Corp	1.786	0.43	5.43	Market neutral
Cooperman	1.754	-20.09	-14.01	Global Macro
Soros Bank Corp	1.499	-2.31	-3.40	Global Macro
Orbis Global Equity	1.489	-4.46	5.26	Global
Highbridge Capital Corp	1.358	-5.54	1.29	Market neutral
Rosenberg Mkt Neutral Strat	1.214	4.59	6.91	Market neutral
Appaloosa Investment	1.162	-27.55	-20.86	Event driven
Alliance Capital Mgt	1.101	-13.59	0.22	Global
Ellington Composite	1.072	1.06	3.46	Market neutral
Spectrum Asset Mgt	1.070	-0.59	4.03	Market neutral
Halcyon/Alan Shiffa Mgt	1.037	-4.52	8.57	Event driven

Source: Managed Account Report to F...

bonds. This "trust me I know what I am doing school" is best exemplified by Julian Robertson's Tiger Fund and George Soros. Investors are invited to follow the cult.

● **Market neutral:** so-called because they aim to make money irrespective of the general market movement by exploiting discrepancies between markets. Long-Term Capital Management was the biggest in the game. Its speciality was arbitrage of large holdings of fixed-income bonds. It was also the most highly leveraged of all the funds. Not surprisingly highly-leveraged fixed-income specialists are the ones most seriously at risk.

What attracts many of the brightest fund managers to hedge funds is the freedom to borrow what they like, trade what they like, and even to wear what they like. Open-necked shirts are the rule.

But the controls they chafed against in their previous jobs were

there for a reason. Managers often say one thing and do another.

Hedge fund manager John Meriwether was notorious for not telling his investors what he was doing with their money.

As one wealthy individual who declined the offer to put the minimum stake of \$100m into Meriwether's fund says: "What scares me is that these people charge you 20 per cent if they make profits and give you nothing back when they lose money."

Bond funds played the US stock market earlier this year, and almost everyone played the yen carry game, whereby you borrow cheap yen to buy high yielding bonds elsewhere. But the big danger is not so much gearing as tutism. "People forget that in the last downturn Goldman Sachs saw its capital wiped out. These guys are only as good as their last deal. But they all have the capacity of not living up to their reputation."

Chiroscience shares soar on gene finding

SHARES IN Chiroscience soared almost 7 per cent yesterday after the biotechnology group announced the discovery of a gene that could lead to the development of treatments for cancer, AIDS and arthritis.

The company said it had isolated a gene that regulates the body's immune response to a number of viruses. Controlling the gene, which was discovered in mice, would enable scientists to boost the body's defenses against a number of diseases, the company added.

Robert Jackson, director of research at Chiroscience, said: "This gene is a virtual off/on switch for the immune system and, depending on the disease, there are times when we need to turn the system off and times when we need to turn it on."

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Turning the immune system on would help to fight AIDS and cancer, where the body is too weak to defeat viruses. Switching it off would boost the body's defenses against diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes, where the condition is exacerbated by a strong immune response.

Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest drug development groups, is starting to design drugs based on the genes and expects to start trials on humans in about three years' time.

Researchers at the company's US subsidiary have also identified a gene that could increase bone density in patients suffering from osteoporosis - a painful bone-eating disease that

affects millions of women.

John Padfield, the company's chief executive, said the scientists were "three months away" from isolating the gene. The discovery could lead to the development of a drug that reverses the bone wasting caused by osteoporosis. "There is nothing on the market that increases bone density," Mr Padfield said.

Chiroscience also announced progress on a needle-free anaesthetic being jointly developed with fellow biotech firm Powderject Pharmaceuticals.

The announcements pushed the shares up 16.5p to 264p. They have lost almost a quarter of their value since April, as investors fled biotechnology stocks following allegations of malpractice at British Biotech, the sector's flagship.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Aurum (F)	53.3m (43.1m)	-1.136m (1.682m)	-1.33p (2.12p)	0.5p (0.5p)	4/12/98	05/10/98
Ad Barr (F)	56.5m (57.0m)	8.30m (7.07m)	29.20p (23.25p)	7.0p (4.0p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
British Thorax (F)	6.2m (5.8m)	-5.31m (0.88m)	-29.7p (12.5p)	nil (-)	-	-
Buyle (F)	0.1m (0.3m)	0.32m (0.33m)	0.72p (1.25p)	0.25p (0.25p)	01/12/98	26/10/98
Charmantaine Cement (F)	8.1m (5.0m)	1.381m (1.023m)	1.4p (0.75p)	0.34p (0.22p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Charmantaine Cement (F)	38.4m (19.0m)	4.029m (1.699m)	2.2p (1.1p)	0.70p (0.65p)	19/11/98	05/10/98
Cobham (F)	175.7m (151.1m)	30.0m (24.3m)	27.5p (18.2p)	2.65p (4.85p)	11/12/98	09/11/98
Coca-Cola (F)	569.5m (608.9m)	-2.0m (12.8m)	-0.74p (0.90p)	nil (-)	-	-
Consolidated Cast (F)	6.8m (5.7m)	50.000 (-6.57m)	-0.1p (-2.77p)	nil (-)	-	-
Dorland Valley (F)	-	4.8m (5.0m)	7.02p (9.21p)	2.20p (2.35p)	09/11/98	19/10/98
Friends Inky & Sons (F)	17.4m (10.3m)	6.83m (5.37m)	4.37p (6.29p)	5.0p (2.65p)	15/10/98	05/10/98
Hogarth (F)	319.8m (324.6m)	31.5m (11.1m)	8.8p (3.3p)	3.0p (3.0p)	10/12/98	05/10/98
Interstate Cap. Trust (F)	-	19.42m (11.5m)	28.1p (17.5p)	6.1p (8.4p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Luxor Holdings (F)	42.0m (45.0m)	3.54m (0.03m)	9.34p (7.69p)	3.65p (3.65p)	01/12/98	05/11/98
S Lytle (F)	-	0.81m (0.50m)	10.50p (6.25p)	3.0p (2.25p)	04/01/99	30/11/98
Marylebone Wreck (F)	81.1m (19.5m)	10.07m (-10.08m)	13.8p (-22.1p)	3.75p	06	12/10/98
Melrose Group (F)	5.1m (4.5m)	1.00m (0.70m)	6.00p (4.75p)	nil (-)	-	-
Mintara (F)	-	7.9m (0.4m)	7.1p (6.5p)	2.5p	06/04/99	06
Northern Leisure (F)	57.5m (34.7m)	14.1m (8.52m)	9.0p (6.1p)	5.75p (3.0p)	30/10/98	05/10/98
Orbitair (F)	20.4m (12.5m)	-0.48m (-0.28m)	-2.20p (-3.85p)	0.75p (nil)	01/12/98	05/10/98
US Group (F)	28.1m (25.8m)	-0.58m (4.90m)	-1.18p (-1.47p)	nil (-)	-	-
Rational Trust (F)	-	38.67m (7.48m)	9.83p (2.15p)	0.50p (0.45p)	25/11/98	12/10/98
United Assurance (F)	-	168.7m (77.8m)	32.9p (8.5p)	8.0p (7.0p)	09/11/98	05/10/98
Wine Group (F)	106.1m (139.5m)	-29.7m (-56.8m)	-28.6p (-22.5p)	nil (-)	-	-
Watts Blake (F)	50.4m (50.5m)	4.560m (5.468m)	15.7p (15.0p)	4.4p (4.4p)	20/11/98	05/10/98
Worshipful (F)	585.0m (528.1m)	25.0m (12.9m)	4.89p (2.33p)	2.01p (2.01p)	28/10/98	05/10/98

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (N) - New Month EPS is pre-exceptional *Dividend to be paid as a PD

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(Incorporated in Guernsey with registration number 344431)

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at a price of 100p per Share

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Authorised	Issued and to be issued, fully paid (assuming the Placing is fully subscribed)
Nominal Value	Nominal Value
£25,000,000	£10,000,000
Number	Number
100,000,000	40,000,000

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SPORT

Rugby Union: Woodward's 'absolute diamond' plans a leading role in the build-up to the World Cup qualifiers

Clarke aims to duel for his crown

BY CHRIS HEWETT

MOST WORLD-WEARY cynics now accept that sincerity is the key to success. "Once you can fake that," they say, "you've got it made." Ben Clarke belongs to an increasingly rare breed of professional sportsman who, while agreeing wholeheartedly with the first half of the sceptics' maxim, angrily disowns the punchline.

Richmond's captain has never faked a performance in his life, which is why good English rugby men and true will this morning be feeling a little more upbeat than usual about their bruised and battered game.

Clarke is back in the big time, as of lunchtime yesterday: one of 26 elite players named in Clive Woodward's first full-strength England squad for some five and a half months, his re-emergence as much a testament to his depth of character as to the quality of his technique. As the national coach freely admits, some of Clarke's performances in adversity in New Zealand during the summer transcended technique altogether.

"People respect Ben because he wears his honesty on his sleeve, where everyone can see it and appreciate it for what it is," says John Kingston, who coaches him at Richmond. "He came to this club from Bath as a big name, but he lives and breathes Richmond as though he had never played anywhere else. That sort of integrity is priceless in a rugby player."

Yet five months ago his value as an international commodity was down there alongside the rouble. In

'The back row is a real English strength and immensely competitive, probably more than any other area of the side'

fact, Clarke was history made flesh. Richmond were having an up and down sort of campaign in the Premiership, the England A team in which he had been asked to play the "Mr Experience" role had shipped 145 points in four miserably incompetent games and Woodward, in his first season as England coach, did not appear in the remotest danger of picking him for his Test squad. Sure, he made the summer tour to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, but only because at least four of Woodward's preferred options took one look at the itinerary and ran a mile.

Even then, Clarke was overlooked for the opening Test against the Wallabies; a good one to miss, as it turned out, but deflating at the time. Ben Sturman of Saracens - big, strong, powerful and as green as the playing fields of Brisbane - was picked at blind-side flanker in tandem with Tony Diprose, the No 8, and Richard Pool-Jones, a last-minute replacement for Pat Sanderson on the open side. Much to the puzzlement of those southern hemisphere sophisticates who know a loose forward from a loser, the great Lion of '93 was handed the sop of captaining the midweek "stiffs" against New Zealand's second-string.

Clarke's display in the mud and stime of Hamilton's Rugby Park may well turn out to have been a career-saver. Eighty self-sacrificing and hugely influential minutes at the coalface made him a stone cold certainty for the three remaining Tests and had Woodward



Ben Clarke, the Richmond back-row forward, earned high praise from people like the All Black great Murray Mexted during England's summer visit to New Zealand

Ross Setford/Empics

singing his praises all the way from Carisbrook to Cape Town. "The guy is an absolute diamond," beamed Woodward after the compelling tussle with the All Blacks in Auckland.

True to his word, Woodward has restored his gem to the shop window for the forthcoming World Cup qualifiers with Italy and the Netherlands. The other back-row specialists are Lawrence Dallaglio, Neil Back, Richard Hill and Diprose which means that, at 30, Clarke has leapfrogged both the 24-year-old

Sturman and, more resonantly still, the vastly experienced Tim Rodber.

"I'm chuffed to have made a full-strength squad, of course, but the thing now is to stay there," he said yesterday after another bout of physiotherapy on the bruised shoulder that has restricted him to 105 minutes of Premiership activity this season. "The back row is a real English strength at the moment and immensely competitive, probably more so than any other area of the side apart from scrum-half. It is always

important to force your way into the first squad of an international season because, if you don't, you can only sit back and watch others perform. But there's a hell of a lot of rugby to be played before the World Cup next year, which is the real target for all of us."

Woodward is blessed with a number of multi-purpose back rows - Dallaglio can play either six or eight, as can Clarke, while Hill leads a more unusual double life as a seven or eight - and he sees no earthly reason why he should be

drawn on the precise balance of his ideal unit. Last season, he switched from a classical Dallaglio-Hill-Diprose triumvirate to a more radical Dallaglio-Back-Hill arrangement and, if he feels further World Cup experimentation is necessary, now is the time to reach for the test tubes.

But no one relishes the hard yards more than Clarke and it is perfectly feasible that when push comes to mighty shove against the Wallabies and Springboks later this winter, Woodward will play him at

blind-side alongside Dallaglio and Hill in the most physically capable loose trio at his disposal. Suddenly, the threat of Gary Teichmann and Andre Venter seems a little less alarming.

"We all saw what Ben achieved in the summer in pretty dire circumstances, but there is no sentiment about his selection in this squad," said Woodward yesterday. "He's in on merit, pure and simple; I watched him play against Newcastle on the opening day of the season and thought he went bloody well. That's

the criteria. Last summer is last summer; a candidate for this England side has to be doing the business now."

"Having said that, his contribution as a tourist was phenomenal. I didn't really know him from Adam, to be frank with you, but by the time we'd had a couple of team meetings, I knew he was a natural leader. He just demands respect. A lot of people in New Zealand, All Black greats like Murray Mexted, think he's the cat's whiskers, so he must have something going for him."

Woodward summons the England old guard

CLIVE WOODWARD'S only consolation from the seven-match whitewash in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa during the summer was the thought that "half a dozen or so" new World Cup candidates would emerge from the debris. As it turns out, the England coach has been forced to settle for two. Spencer Brown of Richmond and Tom Beir of Sale are the only previously uncapped tios to have survived a first taste of southern hemisphere reality.

The rival wings were named yesterday in an initial 26-man party for the World Cup qualifiers against Italy and the Netherlands in November. So unmoved was Woodward by the

BY CHRIS HEWETT

performances of his remaining summer greenhorns, particularly those outside the scrum, that his squad includes two tried and tested backs, David Rees and Will Greenwood, who have yet to don a pair of boots this season. He has also recalled Darren Garforth, the Leicester prop he rather brutally overlooked when picking his tour squad four months ago.

It was never likely that the understrength summer contingent would intrude too much on Woodward's World Cup thinking and sure enough, the old guard are back in force after their well-earned stints on the sun-lounger. Lawrence Dal-

laglio, Martin Johnson and Jason Leonard reappear amongst the forwards, even though the latter is serving a suspension, while Kyrn Bracken, Paul Grayson and dear old Jeremy Guscott are restored to their customary positions in the back division.

As usual, the coach has taken care to leave the door ajar for late arrivals; he will reassess his squad late next month before making a final selection in the first week of November. But this line-up bears an unmistakable stamp of authenticity and if youngsters such as Jonny Wilkinson and Josh Lewsey, not to mention Tim Rodber and Tim Stimpson among the more seasoned

operators, are concerned, they have every reason to be.

The most contentious areas concern the front row and the wing positions. Garforth, one of seven Leicester men included, is a worthy sort, but Woodward's rejection of two London-based tight-heads, Will Green of Wasps and Darren Crompton of Richmond, is surprising, given his short treatment of Midlander back in May. Out wide, the

death of natural finishers sees Austin Healey, a career scrum-half at Welford Road, selected out of position once again.

Hence the promotions for Brown and Beir. Brown has been in the sharpest of nick for Richmond and even though Woodward's initial instinct on returning from tour was to shelve him, his all-encompassing defensive skills have won him a reprieve. However, Beir

appears to have the more immediate future as a Test wing, especially if he can work in tandem with Rees, a club-mate who the coach considers to be a world-class performer.

"David is training full on after a long injury lay-off and according to his club, he is a fortnight away from playing," Woodward said yesterday.

"As for Greenwood, he already has a second team game under his belt and is close to match fitness."

"My first priority was to pick the best players in England and both fall into that category."

Like any good coach with the well-being of his players at heart, Woodward spent much of the summer defending his

young charges against a tirade of criticism - the sort of criticism that becomes inevitable once you lose a Test by 76 points, as England did in Brisbane. Three months on, the coach said yesterday, was a "huge disappointment but not a terminal one."

"It was always comforting to know that a number of great players were back in England getting themselves fit and I'm looking forward to working with them again," Woodward acknowledged. "My first aim is to get us back to where we were at the end of last season's Five Nations and I'm confident that will happen pretty quickly. I'm not saying that the young play-

ers from the summer tour will not come through this season, far from it. But the fact is that I'm now picking from strength."

There was no word on the captaincy issue - "The last thing on my mind," said the coach - but Dallaglio is in pole position and should be confirmed in the role before the end of next month.

Alex Codling, the Richmond second-row, has been taken off the transfer list by mutual consent. The former Blackheath and Wasps player, who has been capped by England at under-18 and under-21 levels, went on the list earlier this month because he was unhappy about his lack of first-team opportunities.

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ENGLAND TRAINING SQUAD

England party to train next week in preparation for World Cup qualifiers: The Netherlands, 14 November and Italy, 22 November (both at Middlesbrough).

FORWARDS: G Rowntree (Leicester), J Leonard (Saracens), D Garforth (Leicester), P Vickery (Gloucester), R Cochrane (Leicester), P Greenwood (Gloucester), M Johnson (Leicester), G Greig (Saracens), G Archer (Newcastle), L Dallaglio (Wasps), M Back (Leicester), R Hill (Saracens), B Clarke (Richmond), A Diprose (Saracens).

BACKS: M Perry (Bath), T Beir (Sale), S Brown (Richmond), D Rees (Sale), A Healey (Leicester), P de Glanville (Bath), M Greenwood (Leicester), J Guscott (Bath), M Carr (Bath), P Grayson (Northampton), K Bracken (Saracens), M Dawson (Northampton).

smart
cash aJalabert
may lead

Henman profits from failure

TENNIS
BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Munich

ADMITTING THAT he might have been better staying away from the \$6.7m (£4.2m) Compaq Grand Slam Cup than performing below par, Tim Henman apologised to the organisers before leaving with \$100,000 as a first-round loser last night. He will take a few days' rest before resuming ATP Tour duty in Basel next week.

Leading Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, 5-1, in the first set after only 17 minutes, the British No 1 was unable to take any of three set points. Twenty minutes later, Bjorkman took the set, 7-5.

Bjorkman - who, like Henman, served his country hand-somely in the Davis Cup last weekend - continued to whittle away at the Briton's resistance. Henman saved two break points in the third game of the second set and four more in the fifth game before Bjorkman cracked him with a forehand return for 3-2, going on to win, 7-5, 6-4, after 72 minutes.

"It feels like I've been playing week after week," said Henman, who has spent only one full day at home since 20 July. "Yes, there is quite a lot of money at stake, but maybe I realise now that isn't the most important thing, and perhaps that doesn't mean quite as much as it used to."

Henman would have won an extra \$75,000 for beating Bjorkman and reaching the quarter-finals. The semi-finalists each receive \$325,000, the runner-up \$650,000, and the winner \$1.3m. When Henman previously qualified for the Grand Slam Cup, in 1996, he won \$431,250 for playing three matches, losing to Boris Becker in the semi-finals.

There are no world ranking points at stake at the Grand Slam Cup, an indoor finale to the four major championships, only money. Before accepting the invitation to Munich, Henman emphasised that his priority was to qualify for the ATP Tour



Tim Henman shows the strain on the way to a 7-5, 6-4 defeat against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich yesterday

Championship in Hannover next month. The eight places are decided on the year's ranking points, and Henman is currently No 8 in the race.

Asked if it might have been wiser to have turned down the Grand Slam Cup, Henman said: "I think that could be a fair assumption. You learn from your mistakes." Having helped Britain win promotion to the Davis Cup World Group with a 3-2 victory against India, Henman said he did not intend to

put any pressure on himself in Munich, which he regarded as "a bonus week".

His relaxed tennis paid dividends at the start of the match against Bjorkman, who had won the last two of their three previous contests. "I played pretty well to go up 5-1," Henman said. "I was playing pretty loose tennis, going for my shots. I don't think I was doing anything amazing. I think he was making a lot of mistakes early on. He wasn't making

many first serves. He was missing in the rallies.

"I kept going for my shots at times, but I didn't make quite as many from then on. I don't think my concentration was quite as good as it could have been on some of the bigger points."

Although unable to build himself up for the occasion, Henman expressed faith in the Grand Slam Cup, which started in 1990 as a December event and last year was brought forward to the end of September.

The promoters are hoping to switch to mid-October by 2000.

"I think a place in the calendar needs to be found," Henman said. "I think it's a great tournament. It makes sense with the four Grand Slams; you've got a great opportunity to have a great field. At the moment, it does seem that the calendar is pretty busy. But I think a lot of people should try very hard to find a date that is suitable for everyone. It's tough with the amount of tennis we're

playing, with [Pat] Rafter in Australia playing Davis Cup, and [Pete] Sampras injured."

Henman favours a merger between the Grand Slam Cup and the ATP Tour Championship. "Obviously, things need to be worked out, but I think it would be a good idea," he said. "Then there would be one big event instead of the ATP World Championship and this - two tournaments where I think there should perhaps be only one."

Martina Hingis, who marks

her 18th birthday today, became the first woman to win a match at the Grand Slam Cup yesterday, when she defeated Conchita Martinez of Spain, 6-2, 7-5. Although a number of shots were breathtaking and some of the rallies dazzling, cynics might say the match was a throwback to some women's contests of the distant past. There were 13 breaks of serve. *Grand Slam Cup (Henman) by T. Henman (GB) 7-5, 6-4. Bjorkman (Swe) by T. Henman (GB) 7-5, 6-4. Henman's singles, quarter-finals (M. Hingis (Swe) by C. Martinez (Sp) 6-2, 7-5.*

Lawyer is first woman official

BOXING

LESS THAN 24 hours after the MCC opened its doors to women members, the British Boxing Board of Control has appointed their first female official in its 69-year history.

Judith Rolleston, a commercial solicitor from London, has joined the Board of Administrative Stewards, the decision-making body of domestic boxing.

Last year the Board appointed Northern Ireland's Olympic gold-medal winning pentathlete, Mary Peters, as an honorary steward, but she has no part in the decision process of the board.

The Board's secretary, John Morris, said: "This is an important appointment because Judith brings legal expertise along with considerable knowledge of boxing. Obviously she can assist us as we develop the female side of the sport but her involvement will go far beyond that." Rolleston specialises in oil and gas law and has been a lifelong follower of boxing through family interest.

She chairs the Women's Commission of the Amateur Boxing Association of England, and is secretary of the Women's Commission of the European ABA. Rolleston has been qualified as an amateur judge for the past three years and last season was promoted to the major panel. More recently, she qualified as a referee.

She said: "I look forward to becoming more fully involved in the sport and not simply with women's boxing."

Tyson reports filed late

MIKE TYSON missed a deadline for submitting psychological reports to boxing authorities in Nevada yesterday upsetting at least one boxing commissioner and further harming his chances of regaining a licence.

Tyson's advisers said that tests at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston took too long and doctors were unable to get the reports together in time for the commission's 5 pm deadline on Monday.

Dr Ronald Schouten, head of the team that examined Tyson, sent a letter to the commission's chairman, Dr Elias Ghanem, saying the reports would be completed today. "Unfortunately, due to the length of the evaluation process, the scoring on the psychological and neuropsychological testing have not been completed," Schouten wrote.

The Nevada Athletic Commission meets on Saturday to determine whether Tyson will be able to get back the boxing licence stripped from him for biting Evander Holyfield's ear. "I don't know what is going on, but it is very disappointing," Ghanem said.

The testing had appeared to be the only obstacle but commissioner James Nave now wants to hear about Tyson's alleged altercation with two men following a traffic accident in Washington DC before a decision is made.

Smart's joint challenge of cash and competitiveness

SCOTT SMART'S pursuit of a divided sport's most elusive prize appears, on first glance, a perverse ambition bordering on downright obstinacy. Who, after all, would compete in a class so dominated by one man, Honda, and one man, Michael Doohan? And do so on a machine that struggles to compete in a 500cc grand prix class that, because of a conspicuous recent lack of success by British riders, struggles to find an audience here to rival the hugely popular World Superbikes series?

But maybe that is the very reason why a determined 23-year-old is Britain's lone rider in that, despite the brouhaha generated by Carl Fogarty's successes in World Superbikes, remains motorcycle's blue ribbon class. The spur of singularity, being the lone man against a seemingly insuperable challenge, is often important to those possessed of a truly competitive nature.

With Smart, however, it runs deeper than that, although the

Ignoring the easy option in a divided sport, a young British motorcyclist with a famous family is struggling to develop his undoubted talent. By Andrew Martin

self-effacing rider from Kent would never suggest it himself. Smart, to his eternal credit, shies away from any pompous notions of family heritage, but one can hardly fail to acknowledge that he is (and he winces whenever the subject is broached) the nephew of Barry Sheene, Britain's last 500cc world champion, who won the title in 1976 and 1977.

Smart's relationship with his famous uncle is strictly a family matter. Although Sheene brought Smart his first bike on his fourth birthday, his involvement in motorcycle racing has more to do with his father, Paul.

Smart Sr manages the Millar Honda Britain for whom his son rides after selling his bike dealership last year to concentrate on Scott's progress

in a high-risk, high-failure sporting arena.

Paul Smart was quite a racer himself, just ask any Italian rider or pit crew on the grand prix circus. They hold Paul in eternal affection, mainly as a result of the Briton's venerated victory on a silver Ducati at the 1972 Imola 200. Yet Smart Sr remains a cult figure in bike racing because, in a parallel to today's WSB versus GP schism, he chose to ride in the then more lucrative Formula 750 series in the United States while brother-in-law Sheene was hurtling to fame and glory in 500cc grands prix on a Suzuki.

While the Millar Honda has struggled to compete with the mega-budget, cutting-edge, one-off bikes of the works rides of Doohan, Criville, Biaggi et al, Paul's presence and occasional

advice have been invaluable to Scott. Paul is no parent from hell, foisting unfulfilled ambitions on a manipulated offspring - far from it.

"He just lets me get on with it," Smart said. "It's much nicer to do it yourself. There's no point in him forcing me to do something that does not come naturally."

Smart, by his own admission, has struggled to coax a competitive ride from his bike this season. To take the relatively easier option of turning instead to the British or World Superbikes series, both of which eclipse GPs in terms of popularity and profile in Britain, would be missing the point, however.

"I always wanted to get into grand prix racing," he said. "We've been struggling with the

bike all year, always feeling like it's going to kill you - it's not so easy."

Yet his season has not been without its rewards. At the British Grand Prix, a 10th place provided a tangible glimpse of a promising home talent.

"At Donington, the tyres and suspension just gelled and I knew the track - it's a confidence thing. Having a bad year knocks any confidence and doesn't help your riding. I've always been on an upward spiral," said Smart, who took the British 250cc championship by storm in 1996.

This is his first year in two-wheeled grands prix where he competes without pay, relying on the personal sponsorship of British firms such as Digl and Norwood Adams to scrape by.

"Money talks as much as results do," he lamented on a ever widening gulf with the big Japanese manufacturers' teams of pampered egotists.

While among the leading privateer riders - a race with a race involving non-factory prepared twin cylinder and thus



Smart: Struggling with his bike this season

lower bikes - it cannot help a young man's confidence that each time Doohan screams past him and other tail-enders, the four-times world champion shakes his head in a gesture of contempt for those momentarily blocking his path towards a fifth world title.

Smart is thick-skinned enough to ignore the bluff and the bull, however, his immediate focus being the next grand prix, in Australia, and equally daunting challenge of raising the funds he needs to secure a competitive ride next season.

"It's really scary establishing the amount of money I need to raise. £100,000 still doesn't leave me with anything to live on."

Such stricture means riders must be pragmatic and Smart is not ruling out a move to 250cc next season, where bikes and budgets are on more level terms. "I'd rather be competitive on a 250 than uncompetitive on a 500. Besides, it's more fun to be on a winning bike."

Still, it was a decent result in Barcelona (he finished a creditable 15th 10 days ago) and it was a big bonus that there were a few riders behind him. It was pretty close and we were not a long way behind the quick boys."

Given the right ride and a few more years experience and a biking dynasty may yet yield a new British hero.

Jalabert jibe may lead to ban

CYCLING'S GOVERNING body, the UCI, is ready to ban Laurent Jalabert, the world's top-ranked cyclist, from next week's World Championship after he compared top officials to neo-Nazis, the French daily *L'Equipe* said yesterday.

Frenchman Jalabert recently described the UCI as a "dictatorship" and its commissioners as "half Dracula and half neo-Nazi". The UCI president, Hein Verbruggen, told *L'Equipe* that Jalabert has until Sunday to apologise or be excluded from the World Championships, which begin next Tuesday in Maastricht in the Netherlands.

"If Laurent Jalabert doesn't send us a letter of apology before 4 October... he will be excluded from the World Championships," Verbruggen said.

CYCLING

"We can not let this pass. Jalabert wanted to put his comments on the table wittily, but I find his sense of humour intolerable. Comparing people to neo-Nazis, that's not funny and that's going too far." Jalabert has still not done so, Verbruggen added. Any suspension could last between one and six months.

The Festina team might challenge its expulsion from the World Championships. Festina were kicked out of the Tour de France after admitting to using the banned substance EPO. But Festina's lawyers will argue that there should be a presumption of innocence in favour of the cyclists, who have still not appeared before a disciplinary tribunal.

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E15 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

England scrape bottom of barrel

Sir: Following your publication of the averages for the cricket season (22 September) just finished, have England ever taken a team to Australia that included the bowlers who were eighth from bottom and bottom of those averages?

STUART RAWES
Amersham
Bucks

County champs?
County chumps

Sir: The first-class cricket averages imply

demonstrate the current poverty of the County Championship. The following examples do not bow well for the forthcoming Ashes series this winter:

Batsmen:
G Thorpe: average of 26 in 13 innings.
N Hussain: average of 31 in 19 innings.

Bowlers:
R Croft: 20 wickets at 57 (453 overs).
P Such: 38 wickets at 39 (525 overs).

At the same time:
A Caddick (On standby): 105 wickets at 19.8 (687 overs)

And as a final reminder:
C Walsh (35 years old): 106 wickets at 17.3 (633 overs)
WHAT A JOKE
ALAN ROBERTS
Teddington
Middlesex

Premiership under threat from below

Sir: I believe that there is a trickle of people going to watch football at the lower levels and at cheaper prices and without forecasting that this could develop into a flood, there is a real danger that football at the higher level is overselling itself. The days of the "floating" supporters must be almost

over as going to a game without a ticket is not really feasible, especially at Premiership matches. Now with television jammed with football games and prices high, the bubble could burst for many Premiership clubs in the near future, and that could lead to a European league for the few (mostly watched on television) and a back-to-the-future situation for many other clubs. Meanwhile, as some are discovering, there is life outside the big leagues and maybe a longer and cheaper one too.
TERENCE G
SPRINGTHORPE,
Enfield
Middlesex

Curran pays for lack of success

KEVIN CURRAN has been sacked as the captain of Northamptonshire after just one season in charge.

The decision was announced by the club's chief executive, Steve Coverdale, yesterday. The county endured a disastrous summer in which they finished 15th in the Champs and made early exits from both the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy.

A decision on his successor will be made over the next few weeks and Northamptonshire may look to a new overseas player to take on the job.

"Kevin has been typically committed and thoroughly professional as captain," said Coverdale. "His dedication and determination have been exemplary and he was as disas-

CRICKET

pointed as anyone that the club didn't achieve more this season.

"He was appointed to provide positive leadership and in many ways he did that. However, the committee now feels that Kevin can best serve Northamptonshire in 1999 - his benefit year - by concentrating on his own performances as a player."

"No doubt there will be a lot of speculation, but at the moment there is no one under serious consideration to take over." Australia's Cricket Board has ruled out any of its players appearing at hearings into match-fixing scandals while on the current tour of Pakistan. The commission had been seeking evidence from Mark Waugh and Mark Taylor.

Champions' League: Giggs injury and Butt suspension pose twin problems on a night when Ferguson must get it right

United facing a test of maturity

MUNICH WAS quiet yesterday morning. Having been the only part of the German south-east to vote for the victorious socialists it was suffering the consequences of combining election celebrations with the Oktoberfest.

But, as the players of Bayern Munich or Manchester United will find out tomorrow morning, you do not need to be drunkenly hungover to feel terrible.

If either side loses tonight's Champions' League tie they will still wake with all those feelings of regret and remorse. Defeat in the Olympic Stadium could spell the beginning of the end for either side, Bayern having lost in Copenhagen the night United were being held at home by Barcelona.

Those results showed how tight Group D is, but, though Alex Ferguson insisted yesterday that nine points could be enough, it will be difficult to qualify should they only gain one from the first two games.

United will be hamstrung by the loss of Ryan Giggs and Ronny Johnsen. The absence of Giggs, who is suffering from a foot injury sustained against Liverpool, is a blow as European football seems to bring the best from him.

With Nicky Butt also suspended Ferguson may play Jesper Blomqvist on the left though another, more defensive, option would be to recall Henning Berg in defence, move Gary Neville back to full-back and play brother Phil in midfield.

The decision is a difficult one for Ferguson as the latter option may be interpreted by his players as an indication of a lack of confidence in them. It is easy to forget how many players are young or new to Old Trafford's special pressures and such a move could exacerbate the insecurity which sometimes manifests itself in this United side.

It did against Barcelona. One reason the Spanish got back into a game United had won was a reluctance by the Old Trafford side to continue playing their aggressive, high-tempo football. The inclination to drop back and defend a lead is a natural one in footballers but it has the effect of inviting pressure and Barcelona took full advantage.

Ferguson yesterday admitted his players still had some maturing to do at this level. Though they had a lot of European experience for their age they were still being asked fresh questions, questions to which they would only learn the answer through trial and error. There is, he said, an

BY GLENN MOORE
in Munich

immaturity to their decision-making sometimes and it showed against Barcelona. "We have to impose and express ourselves," he added.

United's task may be eased by the pressure on their opponents. Uli Hoeness, a member of the Bayern side which won three European Cups in the mid-Seventies, and created a milestone for every successive team, regards the present squad as "the most talented in 20 years". Since he is the club's general manager that creates a lot of expectation for Ottmar Hitzfeld, the club's ninth coaching appointment of the decade.

Having led Borussia Dortmund to a surprise Champions' League triumph two years ago - during which they defeated United in the semi-finals - Hitzfeld at least has the pedigree to cope. Judging by their domestic start, six straight wins - he may also have the squad.

There are 16 full internationals in his pack, six of these, including defender Marcus Babel, a former United transfer target, were called up by the national team on Monday. The uncapped Carsten Janker was also selected and Stefan Effenberg would have been if available. There is also a French World Cup winner in Sixente Lizarazu; Giovanni Elber, who was recalled by Brazil yesterday; and assorted other internationals from Ghana and Bosnia to Turkey and Iran. The latter is represented by Ali Daei, who impressed at the World Cup.

Tony Woodcock, the former Nottingham Forest striker who won a European Cup medal in Munich in 1979, said of Daei: "He's very good on the ground and strong in the air. They think they can get at United's defence through the centre and can pick from Daei, Janker, who's very strong, and Elber who's a goal machine."

Ferguson was understandably reluctant to talk about the historical resonance of the tie, United's first trip to Munich since the 1958 air crash.

"It's a very emotional part of the club but we're just here for the game," he said. "It's just another big match," added Roy Keane, articulating the view of most of the players. Even so, while the match is on terrestrial television there may be a few celestial viewers tonight.

Probable teams: Bayern Munich: Kahn; Matthäus; Babel; Linke; Strunz; Jeremies; Effenberg; Salomonski; Lizarazu; Elber; Janker or Daei. Manchester United: Schmeichel; Irwin; G. Neville; Stam; P. Neville; Beckham; Scholes; Keane; Blomqvist; Yorke; Solskjær. Referee: M. Batta (France).

Van Gaal's problem is missing players

INJURIES AND ineligibility have contrived to limit the options of the Barcelona coach, Louis van Gaal, for the European Cup Champions' League Group D match against their Danish visitors Brøndby today.

The lengthy injury list includes Oscar Garcia, Albert Celades and Miguel Angel Nadal. Patrick Kluitert and Mauricio Pellegrino are the men who are ineligible.

The Brazilian Sonny Anderson will return as the Barcelona target man in place of Kluitert and Van Gaal indicated he was considering recalling the Nigerian teenager Gbenga Okunowo to the right-back position

and returning Luis Enrique Martinez to his more natural role as a central midfielder. Rivaldo would then move out to the far left, leaving the Dutch international Boudewijn Zenden to sit among the substitutes.

Real Madrid arrived in Russia with a bulging winter wardrobe determined not to let Spartak Moscow or the local weather freeze them out of Wednesday's European Cup Champions' League Group C game.

The Spaniards arrived on Monday minus injured World Cup top scorer Davor Suker but with an array of hats, gloves and fleece jackets and a tonne of meat and vegetables.



Stefan Effenberg, the gifted Bayern Munich midfielder aiming to lose his bad-boy reputation against United today Empics

Effenberg's finger on the pulse

RECOGNITION COMES in many forms but few are as lasting as a place in the language. Yet while the proponents of the "Ali Shuffle" and the "Cruyff Turn" will forever feel pride in their bequest, some sportsmen are less enamoured of their footnote in linguistic history.

In England, Harvey Smith, despite a glittering career in show-jumping, will be forever remembered for a two-fingered salute 27 years ago. In Germany, Stefan Effenberg is in danger of earning a similar notoriety.

The Bayern Munich midfielder is one of the most gifted German players of his generation but the world knows him for a one-fingered gesture in Dallas. Germany were struggling against South Korea in the World Cup when Effenberg made it quite clear what he thought of German supporters' criticism.

He was immediately substituted and sent home by Bert Vogts, who said he would never pick him again.

Bayern's veteran midfield motivator is determined to atone for the gesture that almost destroyed him. By Glenn Moore

"Making an Effe" has since entered the lexicon of German slang. The 30-year-old already had a wild reputation. As a youngster with Borussia Mönchengladbach he "borrowed" the manager's jeep to escape from a training camp and crashed it. He also "shot up" a Stuttgart hotel room with an air pistol and, in his first spell at Bayern, asked the then-manager, Jupp Heynckes, "outside" to settle an argument.

He had moved to Bayern with the explanation "all the other clubs are too stupid to win the championship" which, unsurprisingly, led to him being jeered at away games. Though he moved to Fiorentina the resent-

ment lingered before surfacing again in Dallas.

Effenberg spent four years in exile but had the final word. Recalled by Vogts after Germany's World Cup failure he played two games but after Vogts' sacking, he declared he was no longer available. This may have been linked to the appointment of Erich Ribbeck, who had sold him in his first spell at Bayern but it is believed he was simply not interested in playing for an unusually poor German team.

Thus the Champions' League assumes paramount importance for Effenberg who has yet to win even a domestic championship let alone a European honour.

Effenberg was a key figure in

Borussia Mönchengladbach's UEFA Cup win over Arsenal two seasons ago and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is aware of his threat. "We respect him, he's earned that through his football," Ferguson said. "All good teams have someone taking responsibility and influencing play and he and Lothar Matthäus do that for them. For a player of his age Effenberg's got a good stamina level, he's still prepared to go box-to-box."

Tony Woodcock, the former England striker now living in Germany, added: "He's the central midfield kingpin Bayern have lacked for several years. They had three or four players fighting for the position but he has made himself No 1. He's an elegant player who works hard, a very good footballer."

Yet time is running out if he is to be remembered for that, rather than for "making an Effe". Inspiring a revival of Bayern's European glories might do the trick.

Antwerp nursery for Old Trafford

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are signing a feeder deal with the Belgian club, Royal Antwerp, to groom their stars of the future. United have struck up an agreement with Antwerp to loan young players and use the club as a way round United's problems of signing the best teenage talent from around the world.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, set the deal in motion when he asked United to find him a nursery team who could take on the likes of South American and African players, who cannot get work permits in England unless they are established internationals.

The key to the deal is the more liberal work permit regulations in Belgium - in Britain at present, non-European Union players must be recognised as senior internationals, a handicap that has hindered United and helped their Spanish and Italian rivals in the past.

The plan is for United to finance the transfers of a handful of young Brazilians, Argentinians and Africans in the coming months, who will all join Antwerp. United will then foot the bill for all the expenses involved in bringing foreign players to Europe.

"We do have regulations, but they are not as severe as in England," Antwerp's secretary, Paul Bistiaux, said last night. "In Belgium you can get a work permit more easily, based on a minimum salary. If you have the promise of a job paying £10,000 a year you are allowed in."

United's scouts have been scouring South America and Africa for months, attempting to earmark the best emerging talent and now can bring them in under their wing at Antwerp.

"Who signs will be United's decision," Bistiaux added. "They will also make all of the financial arrangements. We hope to have some of the best young players in the world at our club and we are proud to have these links between us. The co-operation will be strictly on the field. United are not buying the club, they are using us for a mutual benefit."

Bistiaux revealed that Arsenal had approached Antwerp first, during last season, but they wanted a complete takeover. Antwerp, a club with a proud and famous tradition, did not want that.

United have already let their talented left-back, Danny Higginbotham, go to Antwerp on loan. However, the main advantage will be recruiting the best non-EC talent, and there could be some arrivals within a month.

Once the leading foreign youngsters settle in Belgium they will qualify for EU citizenship after a couple of years and are then free to move on to United, who will have first call on their services.

In the near future, work permit rules for footballers may alter, with moves in the pipeline to allow clubs up to five non-EU players, regardless of their international experience.

Manchester United would not confirm the deal yesterday. "We are talking to a Belgian club, but I can't say which one," said Peter Kenyon, United's deputy chief executive yesterday. "Nothing has been finalised yet."

None the less, United's quick thinking has left their rivals trailing, but undoubtedly leading clubs will now look at this as a way of getting round the system. Arsenal have looked into the concept while Liverpool may also follow suit. However the amount of money involved may restrict the number able to pursue such an ambitious plan which will require investment but should inevitably pay dividends.

Parlour's injury a setback for Wenger

AMID THE fall-out - and fall-over - of Saturday's game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough, the late substitution of Arsenal's Ray Parlour by Fredrik Ljungberg went understandably unnoticed. It may turn out, however, to have more serious consequences than incidents involving Martin Keown, who was sent off with Paolo Di Canio, or Patrick Vieira, who has been accused of pushing a policeman after the match.

According to the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, Keown should receive a sympathetic hearing when the club appeal against his dismissal, and Vieira has nothing to answer for. But the ankle injury suffered by Parlour gives him only a 30 per

cent chance, in the manager's assessment, of being fit to play in tonight's European Champions' League game against Panathinaikos at Arsenal's adopted Wembley home.

The midfielder was considered by many to have been his team's outstanding player in their opening match in Lens, which they dominated for long periods before conceding a last-minute equaliser. Ljungberg, only recently acquired, is ineligible so the talented, but less experienced, Stephen Hughes can expect to start.

Wenger spent much of yesterday's news conference defending Arsenal's disciplinary record in the two years since he

took over, during which time they have received 15 red cards and too many yellow ones for even the most dedicated anorak to count. "I don't think we are a bad team," he said. "So where are we wrong? I don't really know." Of Keown's dismissal on Saturday he said: "He didn't deserve to be sent off. He tried to calm things down and even when he was kicked, he didn't react."

Wenger also claimed to have been right behind Vieira in the tunnel after the game when, he says: "Nothing happened. Sometimes Patrick over-reacts when he's a little bit upset. But he doesn't get the protection he deserves. Some players go into the game to try and upset him."

If Panathinaikos have done

their homework, they will appreciate how important to Arsenal is Vieira's midfield combination with his countryman Emmanuel Petit and they will also know that a little niggling in that area could pay off. Vieira is the one Arsenal player on a yellow card going into tonight's game, having committed an unnecessary foul that led to Lens' late goal.

The Arsenal dressing-room was a disappointed one after that game as the realisation sank in that two invaluable points had been frittered away in a group from which only one side is certain to qualify. Their mood improved a little when news arrived that Panathinaikos had come from behind to beat Dynamo Kiev,

whom Wenger regards as favourites to win the group.

"In this competition even more perhaps than in the Premier League, the game is never over," Wenger said. "We were guilty of being a little over-confident. It was a shock. To have a chance of qualifying from the group we have to win our home games."

A crowd of up to 75,000 - 10,000 of them Greek - is expected at Wembley, where talk of the "wide open spaces" may prove illusory: the pitch is only two yards wider than Highbury and narrower than that of several Premier League clubs.

David Seaman is fit to resume in goal but will not have to face the Greek team's captain and record goal-scorer

Krzysztof Warzycha, an old adversary from Poland-England games, who is injured.

Other familiar names are Norway's Erik Mykland, the little midfielder who helped dump Graham Taylor's side out of the 1994 World Cup; Croatia's Aljosa Asanovic, formerly of Derby County; and Warzycha's replacement Frank Strandli, who played 14 games for Leeds in 1993.

Rumours-up to Olympiakos in the Greek League last season, Panathinaikos have an impressive European pedigree, dating back to the 1971 European Cup final at Wembley against Ajax. They lost to Liverpool in the 1983 semi-final.

Unlike Paul Alcock, they will be no pushover.

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'Pushed' Dicks defends referee

Adam's admiration for Guerin

Salary talks threaten new season

Home victory could give Doohan the title

SPORTING DIGEST

7-5 4-6 6-2, A Costa (Sp) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-6 6-3; T Muster (Aut) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-4 6-2.

LTA SATELLITE (Glasgow) Women's singles, first round: C. Borna (Fr) bt E Erbenová (Cz Rep) 7-5 6-2, J Lutraru (Rus) bt Kärner (Ger) 6-4 6-1, K Elliott (GB) bt A Smith (Ir) 6-2 6-1.

house (GB) 6-2 6-1; K. Wörne-Holland (GB)
bt J Dawson (GB) 6-3 6-4; C. Schuurmans (Bel)
bt H Thoms (Ger) 5-7 7-6 6-1; B. Bruks (Neth)
bt L Perkins (GB) 6-2 5-4; G. Gülekin (Tur)
bt M. Le Squer (SA) 6-1 6-0; D. Majkic (Swe)
bt J Choudhury (GB) 6-3 6-3; V. Davies (Wel)

bt M Joubert (SA) 6-2 6-3; L Herbert (GB)
bt H Farr (GB) 6-4 6-3; M Burtic (Ger) bt I
Matthews (GB) 7-6 6-1; E Dyrberg (Den) bt
H Crook (GB) 6-0 6-2; N Egorova (Rus) bt
A Scharfischew (Ger) 7-5 7-5; C Coomb
(Ger) bt C Arguelles (GB) 4-6 6-3 6-3; M Me
holache (Rom) bt I Srelnich (Ger) 3-6 5-

ITF VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Nottingham) Men's over 35 singles, second round: N Fudwood (GB) bt K Visage (SA) 6-0 6-1; T Foxcroft (GB) bt A Delval (Fr) w/o. Men's over 50 singles, second round: M. J.

Norby (Den) bt R Miller (GB) 6-1 6-2.

SCREWMIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division
 Bishopstoke v Bridgewater Town, Linton
 Town v Barnstaple Town.
RYMAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Leek C.S.O.B. v Prescott Cables; Ramsbottom Utd v Atherton L.R.

JEWSON MESSENGER LEAGUE CUP First Round First Leg: Whitchurch Utd v Newbury
JEWSON MESSENGER LEAGUE First Division: Cowes Sports v Downton.
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Stommarket Town v Wrotham
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN League

Capt Second Row: Bedlington Terriers v
Prudhoe Town; Brandon Utd v Consett; Guis-
borough Town v Alnwick Town; Ryhope C A
v Seaham Red Star; Shildon v Stockton; Wil-
lington v Whickham.

BASKETBALL
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Thames Valley v
Leicester (8.0).

SPEEDWAY
ELITE LEAGUE: Poole v Ipswich (7.30).

INDIVIDUAL: Duntop Spruthers and Carter
Classic (7:30) (or Muff).

1000

SPORT

CLARKE THE ENGLAND DIAMOND P22 • HENMAN'S MUNICH MISERY P23

Clinical Collymore cuts loose

BY PHIL SHAW
in OsloStromsgodset 0
Aston Villa 3
Aston Villa win 6-2 on aggregate

STAN COLLYMORE, a peripheral figure in Aston Villa's ascent to the Premiership summit, made a stunning return to active service in a Norwegian downpour last night. Two early goals by the £7m enigma ended Stromsgodset's Uefa Cup challenge almost before it began, and he completed his hat-trick shortly after the hour.

While the evening was clearly a personal success for Collymore — who was playing only because Paul Merson signed from Middlesbrough too late to be eligible — it also represented a triumph of teamwork and resilience. Villa had been 2-0 down with eight minutes of the first leg remaining before the 18-year-old Darius Vassell capped a remarkable fightback, but once Collymore had scored twice in the space of 14 minutes their place in Friday's second-round draw was never in doubt.

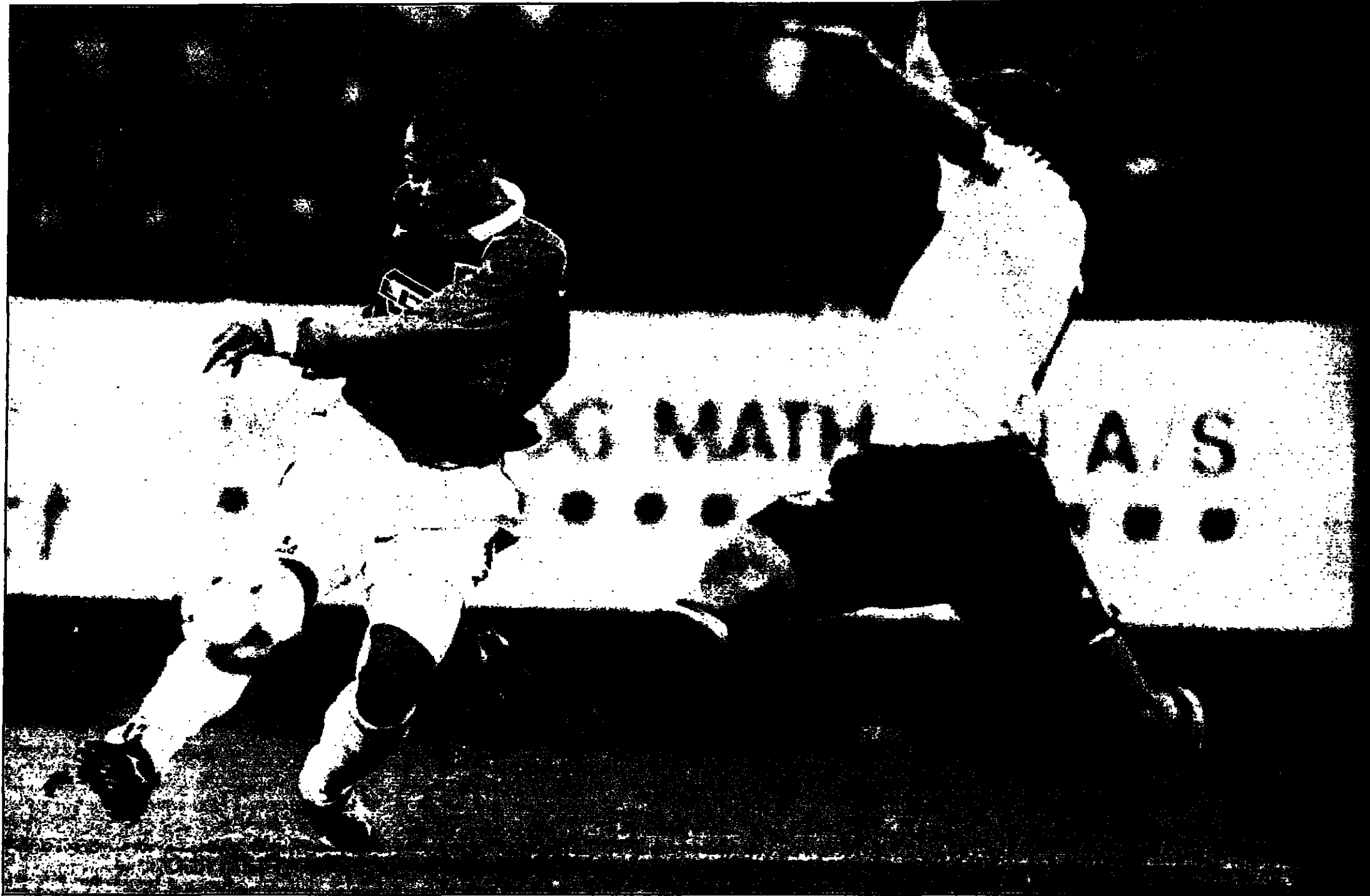
The last Villa player to collect a hat-trick in Continental competition was Gary Shaw in a European Cup tie against Dinamo Bucharest 15 autumns ago. Collymore has a long way to go before he can even hope to match the popularity of Shaw, whom he once idolised from the Holte End, yet this was a promising if somewhat belated start.

His opening salvo, a brutal drive with his right foot, was almost a carbon copy of the one he scored as a substitute when Villa bowed out of the same competition to Atletico Madrid at the quarter-final stage in March. That, coincidentally, was his last goal, since when he has tended to make headlines at the front end of the newspapers rather than on the sports pages.

For his second, which finally took him into double figures more than a year after he arrived from Liverpool, Collymore used his left foot. His powerful running with the ball and interplay with Julian Joachim merited a third goal, which duly came from close range as what had started as a struggle became a stroll for Villa.

Collymore's contribution gives John Gregory the sort of selection problem managers relish for Saturday's derby at Coventry. He was starting only his second match this season, and for the fourth time in Gregory's six-month reign.

The contrast with Villa's venture to Madrid could hardly have been more marked. The council-owned Marianist Stadium proved to be of



The Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore hits his first goal past defender Erlend Johnsen on the way to a hat-trick in the Uefa Cup tie in Stromsgodset last night

Tom Howard

Conference size, its capacity of 4,200 having been increased only by temporary seating.

In terms of history and resources, the disparity between Stromsgodset and Villa is similarly pronounced. The club from the port of Drammen have been professional for just two years, compared with the visitors' 110. They have fewer than 20 full-time staff, against the 104 in Doug Ellis's employ, and were playing only their 12th match in Europe

whereas Villa have claimed the premier prize.

The clubs' recent fortunes have also been sharply divergent. For while Villa's rampant start has their followers dreaming of the championship, Stromsgodset are fighting against relegation. Their caretaker manager, Jens Martin Stoten, was working at his physiotherapy practice until two hours before kick-off; Gregory only ever has to massage egos.

Stoten had been able to recall his former Premiership players, Jostein Flo and Erlend Johnsen, and both figured prominently in an eventful opening. The towering Flo, once of Sheffield United, operated as a lone target man, with Stromsgodset's midfielders presumably under orders to support him when possible. The play worked just once, in the seventh minute, when Flo flicked on and Christer George sent a looping header over the bar.

Villa responded so positively that the tie was effectively over with the first half barely past the midway point. In the 11th minute, Johnsen's control belied his spells with Chelsea and Bayern Munich and Collymore pounced on the loose ball. Cutting in from the left, he angled an 18-yard shot across Glenn Arne Hansen.

After a further, Flo-induced scare in which Stromsgodset had two efforts blocked and another saved by Mark Bosnich following a corner,

Collymore struck again in the 24th minute. An intricate build-up on Villa's right flank culminated in a shot by Ian Taylor. When Hansen parried, the ball broke to Villa's No 9, who dispatched it clinically from 10 yards.

Collymore's final thrust owed everything to the selfless work of Joachim. The diminutive attacker beat a defender on the byline before delivering a low pass which invited a simple tap-in.

The only downside for Villa, on a night when they also kept their seventh clean sheet in nine games, were yellow cards for Taylor and Alan Thompson. Both were also cautioned at Villa Park and will therefore miss the club's next European fixture.

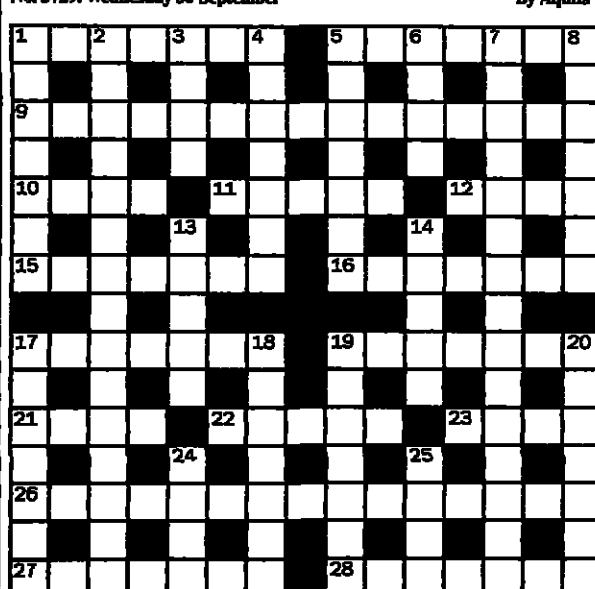
Stromsgodset (4-5-1): Hansen; Granat, Johnson, Skjerve, Wabster, George (R E Odegaard, 67), Nyan, Solberg (Strom, 83), E. Hagen (L. Olsson, 67), R. Hagen; Flo.
Aston Villa (3-5-2): Bosnich; Diego, Southgate, Grayson; Charles (Schmeas, 51), Taylor (Ferreira, 70), Draper, Thompson, Wright, Joachim, Collymore.
Referee: D. Scott (Switzerland).

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3729, Wednesday 30 September

By Aquila

Today's Solution



DEVELOP ASCENDING
E E O A P A H A
FIGURES SOBER
E E D S A E H O
N O T E M A R C H A M I N G
C A B G E A I T
E B E I D E E N G R O S S
E C
G E I R O N G E T T I N G
L E M T U O N I N G
A W A Y A R R A Y O V A L
S R A B L E P A A
S H R I N K I N G U I O L E T
I O T Y A A S V I
C O R N H I D E S U R G E O N

ACROSS

- 1 A scrap in Derby, for example — its natural home (7)
- 5 Nicola C. rambling? Quite the opposite! (7)
- 9 Latin-derived name for Chichester (15)
- 10 Middingling ring to distress call (2-2)
- 11 End of talking parrot or crow (5)
- 12 Vehicle in reverse on motorway? (4)
- 15 Rabbits on pancakes (7)
- 16 Don long to be embraced by better half (7)
- 17 Silly old guys at the end of the line (7)
- 19 Lexicographer once a weaver (7)
- 21 Refusing to heed notes (4)
- 22 A great stop at sea (5)
- 23 Old Indian of a certain caste (4)
- 26 Refurbished Holm hospital got an eye specialist? (15)
- 27 Possibly clear city of misappropriation (7)
- 28 Great North American variety of songbird (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cutter of steel and jade observed (7)
- 2 A Fife shortbread in pieces? They tend to stick together (5,2,1,7)
- 3 Expedition as far as ancient city (4)
- 4 Thrills of square English in Spain (7)
- 5 Mad young thing always in constraint (7)
- 6 Composer in four keys (4)
- 7 Still having no credit? (15)
- 8 Type of pigeon that can spread disease (7)
- 13 This river run over end of street? (5)
- 14 Puts coat on clumsily (5)
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'I deserved a red card' says Di Canio

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

PAOLO DI CANIO has admitted that referee Paul Alcock was right to send him off for kicking the Arsenal defender Martin Keown.

Sheffield Wednesday's Italian striker reacted furiously when Alcock produced the red card at Hillsborough on Saturday, pushing the official to the ground. Di Canio, who has been suspended by the club and charged with misconduct by the Football Association, has now accepted that Alcock made a correct decision.

But, though his agent yesterday issued an apology, the striker still insists the referee "play-acted" and that he was unfairly targeted for being a foreigner. Speaking from Rome, Di Canio said: "What I did was wrong because you should never let things reach that

point, but I think this whole thing has been exaggerated. Keown came up and hit me in the face.

"At that point I couldn't see anything because I could feel the blood coming out and the pain made my head spin. I lost my temper. I think that, for the reaction I had, I deserved to be sent off."

Keown has appealed against his red card, insisting he was acting as a peacemaker, but Di Canio claims that Alcock also made the right decision in sending off the Arsenal man. "I think Keown deserved to be [sent off] as well," he said. "I acted badly towards the referee but it was just a slight push, and he took two or three paces back and fell over, just like a

player does when he wants a free-kick. It was a bit of play-acting. Every Saturday I get kicked around a lot and nobody is there to protect me. This isn't fair and it seems to me that the treatment handed out to foreigners is harsher than what the others get. The problem is that the English are jealous of foreign players."

Di Canio's agent, Matteo Roggi, moved to minimise the damage by saying: "He is really sorry for what happened during the game on Saturday and would like to apologise to everyone for his actions to the referee, to his manager Danny Wilson, his team-mates and the Sheffield Wednesday fans."

Di Canio, who has 14 days to respond to the FA and request a personal hearing, appears certain to be handed a long ban.

Forest pledge Dutchman

BY ALAN NIXON

NOTTINGHAM FOREST have asked the Premier League for a £5m loan, using Pierre Van Hoojdonk as collateral. The Dutchman has been on strike, refusing to rejoin Forest after they rejected his transfer request.

Forest want the cash to sign a replacement and plan to repay the money when they sell Van Hoojdonk. "The Premier League will never agree with this," Van Hoojdonk said from the Netherlands. "It's unrealistic and silly. If Forest get permission it will open the door for every club to ask for loans."

Walter Smith, the Everton manager, launched his clear-

ance sale yesterday by selling the centre-half, Carl Tiler, to Charlton for £700,000. Tiler agreed to the switch after Sheffield United pulled out.

Crystal Palace have bought the Swedish international, Mathias Svensson, from the Austrian side, FC Tirol. The Eagles have also agreed terms with Rangers for Craig Moore.

Richard Littlejohn, whose consortium have had a takeover bid for Tottenham rejected, and Alan Sugar, continued their war of words yesterday, the Spurs chairman responding to being

described as "stupid" and "greedy" in Littlejohn's column.

"His article is full of inaccuracies," Sugar said. "I find when Tottenham needs a new owner, it would have to be a big corporation with deep pockets and huge resources and not, with respect, a group of passionate fans with a sarcastic, career-enhancing media mouthpiece as their spokesman."

Queen's Park Rangers are unlikely to appoint Iain Dowie or Vinnie Jones, both of whom want the job, to replace the sacked Ray Harford. The chairman, Chris Wright, says he will make an appointment by 17 October.

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



This man's account of his childhood in Auschwitz has earned him the respect of Jews, the attention of Steven Spielberg and a place alongside Primo Levi in Holocaust literature. He has been accused of writing a piece of fiction



This man has retired from an academic career founded upon his impeccable liberal credentials. He is a former SS officer and Himmler henchman who came back from the dead and remarried his own widow

Benjamin Wilkomirski's book of childhood memories, *Bruchstücke*, makes harrowing reading. It details how during his boyhood his "playgrounds" were the concentration camps of Majdanek and Auschwitz, where he saw his friends being killed by sadistic guards. It is a story told in nightmarish, fragmented detail, with scenes too terrible to be remembered as anything but flashing images and threatening shadows.

In the book, people are glimpsed only as visual imprints - a boot, an arm, a uniform; scenes the boy witnessed are recalled in hallucinatory detail. A man smiles at the child: "suddenly his face is contorted, he turns away, lifts up his head, opens his mouth as if to let out a mighty cry. From underneath, against the light sky, I see the contours of his jaw and the hat which is sliding backwards. No cry comes out of his throat but a mighty, black geyser gushes forth from his neck as a vehicle crushes him against the wall of the house, and his bones are snapping." The reader is confronted with the death of Benjamin's father at the hands of Latvian militiamen, and that of his mother in the camp.

Since its appearance in 1995, the book has quickly established itself among the classics of Holocaust literature alongside the works of Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel. It has been translated into 12 languages, put on the reading lists of schools and universities, and been awarded the National Jewish Book Award, the Jewish Quarterly Literary Prize and the Prix de la Mémoire de la Shoah. Reviews the world over have reinforced its position as a monument to individual suffering, "dark, Proustian memories" and "poetic visions" (*New York Times*), carrying "the weight of an entire century" (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*), and bearing out the tortuous way of bringing back what had long been repressed. The critic of the American publication *The Nation* even declared the book to be: "so moving, of such moral importance and so free of literary artifice that I ask myself whether I have any right to praise it... This man has survived - we don't know how, his sanity seems a miracle - and he gives this present of an almost perfect pain to a world that is still ready to destroy the innocent."

In an epilogue, the author tells that the authorities in Switzerland, where he grew up after the war, deprived him of his Jewish identity. He was called Bruno Doessekker, provided with a false birth certificate and adopted by a Swiss family, all in an effort to erase his early ordeal from his memory and from the world. Later, the publisher supplied more information about the genesis of these traumatic recollections. Only psychotherapy had been able to unlock his memories of life in the land of the dead.

Wilkomirski has since appeared at conventions and conferences, talking about this process, and has given readings and spoken in schools. He has been the guest of the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and of several universities. He has also contributed to Steven Spielberg's epic oral history programme of interviews with survivors of the Holocaust.

The double existence as the Swiss Bruno Doessekker and as Benjamin Wilkomirski, the former Riga Jew, an earlier self which he has been able to rediscover only as a mature man, has now been called into question by a Swiss journalist, Daniel Ganzfried, who claims that his research into the author's background suggests that Wilkomirski spent his entire childhood in the Swiss cities of Biel and Zurich; that he was the illegitimate son of one Yvonne Grosjean, and was later adopted by the Doessekker family.

Ganzfried claims that Bruno Doessekker did not spend his early years in Eastern Europe, and says he has evidence that the boy spoke perfect Zurich dialect when he went to school at the age of seven in 1947, despite the fact that, according to his

story, he would have only just arrived in Switzerland. Benjamin Wilkomirski, so Ganzfried claimed, had not preceded Bruno Doessekker, but it had been the other way round, a Swiss man imagining a previous existence as a Riga Jew that never happened.

Though the book has already gained the acclaim of historians and reviewers alike, details of the text are now beginning to be questioned by some historians, who believe that some episodes are historically impossible and others are extremely unlikely. Faced with these accusations, Wilkomirski defended himself by claiming that all these questions had already been answered in the epilogue to his book, where he had made it clear that his "official" life had been exclusively Swiss, but claimed that that did not affect the authenticity of his memories, as it had been the policy of the Swiss government to provide new identities for surviving children in its care.

Wilkomirski said that "it has always been possible for my readers to read my book as literature". Whether the work is fact or fiction is a question that remains open to interpretation. The publishers are standing by the book as fact, and the author continues to appear on historical congresses and has even identified the house in Riga in which he spent his early childhood.

Such an aestheticisation of history may appeal to post-modernists, to whom the author Wilkomirski may become a hero and emblem of the *Indefinite play of signifiers, a dance of fact and fiction* placing truth in the eye of the beholder. As a book tied to a definite historical event, however, and to questions of individual and collective guilt and responsibility, these delicate issues of truth and fiction erodes the very ground on which remembrance can be built, especially in Germany, a country that is still profoundly ill at ease both with its recent history and with the ways in which it can be remembered, and is dogged by a small but vocal group persistently doubting the veracity of the genocide of the Jews.

While there are genuine concerns that questioning the book may play into the hands of those who deny the Holocaust, it has also been pointed out that it is far more damaging to leave it up to readers to determine whether this text should be treated as a document or as a work of fiction, the very ambiguity on which such a denial of genocide thrives.

Whatever the outcome, the affair is deeply embarrassing for all concerned. For Suhrkamp, Germany's most prestigious "intellectual" publishing house who accepted it (it did seek expert advice, and was encouraged to do so), and for those who sang its praises without questioning any possible inconsistencies. It also could be another blow for the already widely discredited therapeutic method of "retrieved memory", which has led to countless allegations of childhood sexual abuse, many of which have later been demonstrated to have no basis in fact.

The split identity of a supposed victim of the Holocaust is echoed by a second affair to occupy the German media: the case of Hans Schwerte, the former rector of Aachen University, a left-leaning liberal who gained his reputation by co-opting between the radical students and the conservative academic establishment during the Sixties. He was a leading literary scholar and adviser in educational questions to the German government, and a participant at the "Nuremberg talks", a forum of academics that set out to draft the "presentation and popularisation of left-wing liberalism". He is now living in a retirement home near Munich.

Schwerte was an expert on Goethe's scholar-hero Faust, who famously exclaimed "two souls live, woe is me, in this one chest". This turned out to be something of a literary and biographical irony when, in 1995, Schwerte was proved to be identical with one Hauptsturmführer Ernst-Hans Schneider, a high-ranking SS

officer and ideologue, who had supposedly been killed during the last days of the war.

With exemplary precision, Schwerte had relived the life of his earlier self. After conveniently "killing off" the Nazi Schneider, he had married Schneider's "widow", thus staying married to the same woman; had written a second doctoral dissertation; and was rewarded for his service to the education system with the merit cross of the German Federal Republic and several other medals, just as Schneider had been awarded the Iron Cross.

Schwerte enjoyed a successful and fruitful career as a literary scholar and university teacher before it was exposed that he had been, as Schneider, a prominent member of Heinrich Himmler's "Ahnenerbe" office, responsible not only for helping to formulate a National-Socialist vision of the German past and of "Germanic science", but also for requisitioning medical equipment for human experiments in the Dachau concentration camp. He had also called, at the end of the war, for a "total war of German science". After his exposure he was stripped of his honours. A Fascist wolf in liberal sheepskin, the ultimate opportunist, or, as he himself prefers, a man who lacked courage but who did atone through his later actions, Schneider/Schwerte is emblematic for the culture of bureaucratic killers who changed their tune after the collapse of the vision of Germanic world domination that they had once believed in, and had helped to create.

In a final twist to his tale, the former professor who claimed for himself a second chance without personal accountability was forced to live by the name under which he had allegedly been accessory to murder, though criminal proceedings against him collapsed. Now, after the publication of two competing biographies, the discussions about his case have flared up again, discussions that deal not only with a single SS officer turned liberal academic, but with the entire phenomenon of former Nazis gaining important positions in post-war intellectual life.

The academic establishment that allowed Schwerte to rise to prominence, the Technical University of Aachen, is not keen to have its workings investigated too closely. The author of one of the biographies was threatened with legal proceedings should he claim any complicity with, and knowledge of, Schwerte's dual identity among university colleagues.

The celebrated and admired east-European Jewish victim who may just be gentle and Swiss (and confused), and the left-wing academic who has been a Nazi ideologue: these two so very different figures have, strangely, much in common. Both stories are symptoms of a nation's struggle to deal with its past, which on the one hand makes a fetish of victims, while on the other prefers the perpetrators to be dead, not part of their present and enmeshed in other people's lives. At the same time, it is no accident that these discussions did not take place earlier.

It took a new generation of historians and journalists without personal memories of this time to ask these questions, a generation that asks more directly and is less afraid to expose old taboos. This, of course, is also part of the current political problems Germany is experiencing. Along with less sentimentality comes, all too often, less sensitivity and less knowledge.

Whether Benjamin Wilkomirski or Bruno Doessekker, Hans Schwerte or Ernst-Hans Schneider, the shadow of the Third Reich is still looming over Germany and over a new crop of commentators struggling to make sense of it all in the language not coloured by personal involvement. Many aspects of Germany's official culture of remembrance have long been due for an overhaul: annual and ritualised chest-beating on selected dates has given rise to the temptation to dismiss the historical terror to-

gether with the modern manifestations of its continuing presence. Guilt that is learnt by rote can also lead to hatred.

The last 50 years of German history have been marked by attempts to reinvent the nation without allowing it to escape from its own shadow. As this task is taken over by a new generation, the two unconnected and bizarre episodes of Benjamin Wilkomirski and Hans Schwerte serve as a timely reminder of the nature of this task: to live with a past consisting of fragments that are neither imagined nor embellished, nor edited according to suitability - but confronted and, if possible, understood. That is challenge enough to a generation with no first-hand knowledge of the period, or indeed to any generation.

BY PHILIPP BLOM

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Blackpool follies

Sir: The Prime Minister's warning to his party ("Carping will let in Tories, say Blair", 28 September) and the feelings it might provoke in his more left-wing members, brings to mind Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

As the initial excitement of the animals' victory over Farmer Jones recedes and life on Manor Farm steadily gets worse, Squealer is constantly heard to warn that if the animals don't do what they're told then they will see the return of the dreaded Jones. CLIVE JARVIS
Loughborough, Leicestershire

Sir: Mr Blair tells us it is a choice between the Labour government we have got and the Tories. (Or was it the other way round?) Only two options? Whatever happened to the "third way"? JOHN NICHOLSON
Compener, Greater Manchester Socialist Alliance
Manchester

Sir: If there was one idea that we might expect to run through Labour Party policy, old and New, it is equality; or if that is too blunt for the New lot, then at least some levelling of the inequalities that grew out of the Thatcher years.

Yet so far we have been offered "super-nurses", "beacon councils" and now "superteachers" (report, 28 September). What these policies have in common, (apart from receiving heavy criticism from all the professional bodies involved,) is they reward nurses, councils and teachers who have "excelled" with money, power and influence. Meanwhile, the 99 per cent of nurses, councils or teachers who did not scramble to the top of the heap are underfunded as usual.

What is "New" about any of this? It seems to me a mere formalisation of the dog-eat-dog attitude of the last administration. Can neither of these two political parties really come up with a better system of reward for public service than offering a tit-bit to the dog who jumps highest?

DAVID GORDON
(Liberal Democrat county councillor)
Hinton St George, Somerset

Sir: I would like to thank the efficient Mr Gordon Brown for his elegant new economic policy. Instead of the tiresome old policies of boom and bust he has calculated that it would be so much cheaper and more certain simply to go straight to bust.

How silly we have been to waste our time on those foolish booms. MIKE BELL
Leeds

Sir: David Aaronovitch's attacks on Liz Davies and Labour Left Briefing are becoming increasingly fantastic (Comment, 29 September).

First, he repeatedly quotes out of context in order to distort the meaning of articles in *Briefing*. For example, he tells readers that a piece in the current issue refers to the "armed struggle" in Ireland. The complete sentence reads as follows: "The armed struggle is over and people no longer want a return to the cycle of violence of the Troubles."

Second, he claims members of *Briefing's* editorial board wrote to *The Independent* without declaring themselves as such. In fact, in a letter published on 21 August Tony Dale declared himself a member of the editorial board and went on to point out that he had denounced the IRA's Manchester bombing in unequivocal terms in an article in *Briefing* - one of the many facts Aaronovitch conveniently overlooks in his determination to smear us with broad-brush allegations about "terrorism."

Finally, Aaronovitch claims he does not care about Labour's NEC election. Then why has he devoted two lengthy columns to it? MIKE MARQUESE
Political Correspondent
Labour Left Briefing
London E5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



A postman empties an early Victorian letter-box in Cambridge, in the third of our series on the life of the town before the students return Brian Harris

Sir: Contrary to David Aaronovitch's assertion, I do not believe and have never said that higher rates of income tax should start at "£20,000 or so". As I made clear on BBC television on Monday, I do believe that people earning more than £50,000 should pay more income tax than they do now. LIZ DAVIES
London N1

Jews by choice

Sir: Along with so many others you are over-optimistic about the future of British Jewry ("We must redefine Jewishness", 28 September).

Sure, there are problems, outmarriage - and note I do not say "intermarriage" - being the major one. I speak only for one branch of Judaism - Reform - but our experience of huge numbers of people coming to educational courses on Jewish history, culture, language - and religion even - does not speak of a community on its way out. Our Movement's, Orthodox's and non-affiliated education seminars are bulging at the seams.

To return to the problem of attrition by outmarriage, however, it is here that we part company from our more traditional co-religionists. Most committed Jewish families - and that includes the huge number whose only contact with their faith is chicken soup, barmitzvahs and Jewish New Year - fear their children marrying outside the faith. It is however an increasing fact of life. A community of 300,000 in a population of 60 million cannot stop it, and we have tried.

The answer is - as far as our Movement is concerned - to turn outmarriage into intermarriage. This is not - yet - a view shared by Orthodox, where conversion is all but impossible. Conversion, while not encouraged vigorously by

Judaism, has a long tradition dating back to Ruth in the Bible and even before. Many other Jewish communities worldwide make it easier for people to join in than is the case in the UK.

We do all we can to retain our young Jews who find non-Jewish partners. Our rabbis train and teach, encouraging the Jewish partner often to return to a faith they had all but abandoned. There is no shame in keeping your child loyal to his or her traditions and welcoming the partner. The alternative route - wringing our hands while eschewing the only way of staunching the flow - leads nowhere but to a small, echolash-rump, living in isolation in a few parts of London and

Manchester. We will not settle for that.

At my own synagogue many of our most committed and spiritual worshippers are there by choice rather than accident of birth. Our future includes a recognition of the need to match our commitment to traditional values and practices to a dialogue with modernity. BARRY HYMAN
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain
London N3

Mothers hit back

Sir: What is Howard Jacobson's problem "Get it off your chest", Magazine 28 September. I feel personally attacked as a library-

using mother with three children. He talks of being a son - but is he a father? I doubt it.

I was pleased to read that the children's lending section of which he writes is so well used. These mothers should be applauded, not patronised, for observing library etiquette.

As for mothers who breastfeed in a public place - how dare Howard Jacobson act in such a threatening manner. I'm sure he would be furious at being so rudely disturbed during his lunch. Admittedly he would be unlikely to be eating it in a library, but this is one of the beauties of breastfeeding. Any place, anywhere - or it should be. To all mothers who are

breastfeeding or considering breastfeeding, please do not be put off by these unfeeling, inconsiderate bullies. You are right, they are not. SARAH OLIVER
Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Sir: Roger Dobson's article, "How to turn nightmares into sleeping beauties" (29 September) infuriated me with its half-baked "medical" theories such as "Night waking and settling problems are the seeds of potential long-term behavioural problems in the child" and "Sleep is a learnt behaviour and many parents fail to teach it properly".

These are the same old tired theories that have been put forward for twenty years. Many parents, myself and my partner included, have moved on from this quasi-Victorian attitude, which hardly credits the baby with having more intelligence than an animal, to another level altogether.

Rather than training our babies to sleep, we tried to respond to the deepest human needs, which babies bring forth within us if we are lucky enough to be parents. As a mother of three, the eldest of whom is now 17, I certainly "failed" to teach my children to sleep when they were babies. I fed them all on demand and each baby slept between us in our big family bed until they were ready to move on to their own beds around about the age of four.

Nights were broken, but not strangely enough this was not the signal of long-term behavioural problems - in fact quite the reverse. The needy babies have developed into interesting and kind young men who are both independent and affectionate.

If you have children, you have to be prepared to put in night duty for the first few years in order to reap huge benefits later. JEHANE MARKHAM
London NW5

I should be dead

Sir: OK, so why haven't I mutated? ("Passive smoking in pregnancy causes gene mutation in babies", 29 September)

I and my three siblings, like most of our generation, grew up with chain-smoking parents, and every public building we went into was permeated with tobacco smoke. All our water came through lead pipes, coal fires and lit - in the earliest days - by gas lamps. Winter was a succession of smogs. Our bread was white - the more refined the better - our diet heavily into fat, starch and sugar, and during the war-time years fruit was a rare luxury.

According to the pieces of research (usually from America) you so often publish, we should have been obese brain-damaged morons, riddled with cancer and choking to death by our tenth birthdays. We are now in our seventh and eighth decades and, except for a late-developed case of MS, we are all in good shape and good health. What went wrong? MARGARET DUGGAN
London SW11

Sir: Hold the front page! According to a recent study, 90 per cent of the world's population are male. This is based on a survey of 24 people in my office IT department, the same number surveyed in your headline article on passive smoking. MIKE HANSEN
London NW6

Skin deep

Sir: I have been following the discussion on circumcision with interest. Did I miss something, or am I correct in stating that no circumcised Jewish or Muslim male has written to protest at the practice? Those opposed to circumcision seem to be people to whom it is culturally irrelevant, and who need never fear the Mohel's knife.

The Rev Neil Dawson (letter, 29 September) writes that "new Christians ... were having none of it." This is misleading. There was fervent debate regarding circumcision in the early Church (Jesus and his disciples were all circumcised, of course, as were almost all the original Christians), and it was only to attract gentile converts that the ritual was waived. Many - if not most - of the church founders held that, to be a full Christian, one must undergo a fully Jewish circumcision.

I have never regretted being a circumcised male. My understanding is that most males in the US are circumcised. When the circumcised themselves begin to lobby against the practice it will be time to take the issue seriously. Until then, the debate should be understood for what it is - the braying of misguided PC'ers, seeking to synthesise yet another issue to browbeat those they consider their moral inferiors. GREGG SNEIRSON
Brookline, Massachusetts, USA

Sir: Several different lines of research have shown that the greater the stimulation a nerve receives in the early years of development, then the greater the volume of brain that is allocated to serve the nerve. It would seem fair to suggest that adults who were circumcised as infants may actually have better feedback from the glands than their uncircumcised brothers. PAUL FERRIN
London SW17

Sir: As one who met the knife at the age of eight days, I find the debate over circumcision just a little sterile. Surely it is the right of parents to determine how their children are raised. The last thing parents need is yet more "advice" from the concerned on how to do something that has been taken for granted since the beginning of time - parenting.

Men who feel "traumatised" by the loss of a couple of square inches of skin obviously have a very shallow perspective on what constitutes a real problem in life. MISCHA MOSELE
Hong Kong

IN BRIEF

will care to promote wider use of Esperanto as a neutral common language? HILARY S CHAPMAN
Conwy, Gwynedd

Sir: We occasionally get misdelivered letters, intended for another house in our village in Dorset. Today, however the Royal Mail excelled themselves by delivering a letter I had addressed myself, to someone in a village three miles away. There was no indication as to the sender on the envelope. Homing instinct or strange coincidence? JONATHAN HAIGH
Dorchester

Sir: I could not help but be shocked by the revelations of Uri Geller concerning his erstwhile mode of transport, the Peugeot 404. (Motoring, 26 September).

Shocked, not because his car proved to be less than reliable, but rather that he completely

failed to predict that this would be the case! For me, nothing can ever again be certain. I don't even think I'll be writing to Santa this year. ALLAN PYM
Ebbw Vale, Gwent

Sir: At the Commonwealth Games we had the pleasure of hearing the English national anthem on a number of occasions. "Land of Hope and Glory" has a stirring tune, and its performance reminds us that the appropriate time to hear "God Save the Queen" is when a British team is involved, representing Great Britain, not just England.

Can we now please get rid of the nonsense of the wrong anthem being heard when English football and rugby teams play other nations? When Edward Elgar's splendid time is heard at the last night of the Proms all sing along with great fervour. It can be done at Wembley and Twickenham too. CR POLLARD
Billingham, Cleveland

Trolley pirates in the supermarket aisles of Croydon

A most extraordinary trial is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a Mrs Wishart is suing a Mrs Willoughby for the theft of her supermarket trolley. Of course, trolleys belong to the supermarket, not to private individuals, but what Mrs Wishart is getting at is that... well, perhaps a verbatim extract from the trial will give you a better idea.

Counsel: Now, Mrs Wishart, you were wheeling a trolley round the SpenkKwik superstore in Croydon on 19 July...
Wishart: I was.
Counsel: Can you describe this trolley?
Wishart: Yes. It was exactly the same as any SpenkKwik trolley.
Counsel: Exactly the same?
Wishart: Yes. When you pushed it,

it went sideways, made a horrible squeak and hit oncoming trolleys. Also, the wheel rubbed so that it was hard to push.

Counsel: I see. Could you describe the contents of this trolley?
Wishart: I would think it was about 90 per cent steel, 5 per cent plastic trimmings and 5 per cent rubber from the wheels.
Counsel: I was really thinking of the contents chosen by you...

Wishart: Ah. The shopping which I had amassed included a packet of salmon, some coriander, some lines and a bottle of vermouth. I also had some fresh yeast and some bread flour.
Counsel: And this is the trolley which you claim Mrs Willoughby stole from you?
Wishart: Claim? I saw her do it!
Counsel: Can you think of any rea-

son she might have taken a trolley? Wishart: Certainly.
Counsel: You think she might have wanted to melt it down for its iron and plastic content?
Wishart: Certainly not. There is no need to be heavily sarcastic. She would have taken it for its temporary contents. My shopping.

Counsel: Well, of course, even if she had, the contents of the trolley did not strictly speaking belong to you. You had not yet paid for them.
Wishart: That is ridiculous hair-splitting. They were mine although not yet paid for. The electricity and gas I use in my house is mine, though I have not yet paid for it.
Counsel: Then why do you think Mrs Willoughby took your trolley? Can you think of a reason?
Wishart: Certainly. Half a dozen.
Counsel: One will do.



MILES KINGSTON

Like any SpenkKwik trolley, it went sideways, made a horrible squeak and hit oncoming trolleys

Wishart: She liked the unusual look of my selection of groceries and decided to take it, rather than go

round collecting everything herself. She was guilty of theft of copyright! Counsel: Try another reason.
Wishart: She realised I had taken the last bag of coriander on display and decided to nick mine.
Counsel: Try another.

Wishart: She knew that it sometimes takes ages and ages queuing at the bakery counter to get fresh yeast, and decided to nick mine.
Counsel: Try another.

Wishart: Is there any reason for badgering the witness in this way? After all, you said one reason would do, and now you are asking her for a fourth...

Counsel: Yes, my Lord. I am trying to upset her and get her all confused, after which I can make emotional mienmeat of her.
Judge: Excellent!
Counsel: Also, she said she could

provide half a dozen reasons, my Lord. I think I should hold her to her word.

Judge: Quite right, too. Carry on.
Counsel: Mrs Wishart, can you think of a fourth reason why she might have taken your trolley?

Wishart: Yes. Supermarkets like to reorganise the placing of their shelves from time to time so that regular customers can no longer find produce in the expected place. Such a reorganisation had recently taken place at the Croydon SpenkKwik, and it is quite possible that Mrs Willoughby had spent an hour searching for coriander or lines, had seen mine, and decided to nick it.
Counsel: Fine. And your fifth reason?

Judge: Look, wouldn't it be simpler

to ask Mrs Willoughby why she took the trolley?
Counsel: And so I will in due course, my Lord, but I think Mrs Wishart should complete her payment at the legal check-out first, so to speak.

Judge: Very nicely put.
Counsel: So, Mrs Wishart, a fifth reason?

Wishart: It is quite possible that Mrs Willoughby is one of these animal rights activists and disapproves of salmon farming. She may have thought my purchase of salmon was farmed, and was determined to liberate it.
Counsel: How can you liberate a piece of dead salmon?
Wishart: Don't ask me. Ask Mrs Willoughby.

The case continues.

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Mr Blair talks tough, but avoids the hard choices

THE LABOUR Government started its Blackpool conference on the theme of tough love and Tony Blair kept it tough in his speech yesterday. Absent was any sign of the easing of pressure some party delegates had hoped for after the harsh messages of the "Iron" Chancellor Gordon Brown and the Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson.

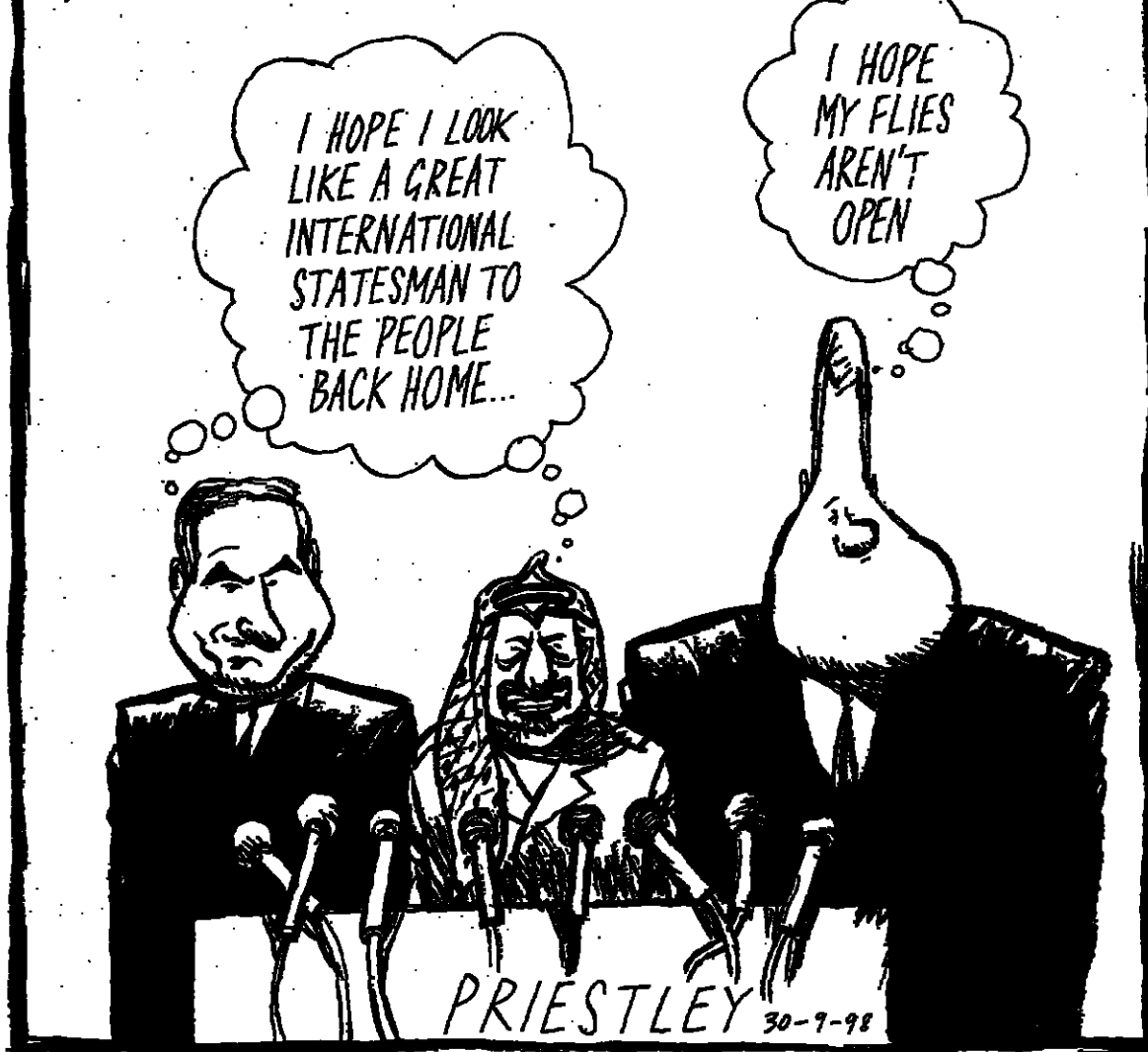
Just the opposite. Instead of appealing to the party, its leader seemed to go out of his way to define the difference between the old and the new, between the Labour of opposition and the Labour in government. His government, he argued almost to the point of ramming it down delegates' throats, was doing what the Tories should have done on crime, welfare, interest rates and defence - only the Tories didn't have the courage.

It was an uncompromising message, intended to convey the impression that Mr Blair cannot be deterred from his quest to modernise Britain (and now Europe, and tomorrow the world). In Blairville, there is no alternative - and the Prime Minister left the clear impression that he is now confident enough to make enemies, be they complaining manufacturers, bolshie farmers, independent-minded Scots, wingeing teachers. But it's hard to argue with many of his targets. If welfare is ever to be brought under control, there must be more efficient means of directing it to those most in need. If educational standards are to be improved, bad headmasters will have to be sacked, just as good headmasters must be given competitive salaries. There were, however, signs that he is still holding back on some of the most radical moves. Power-sharing with the Lib Dems and attempting to build a centre-left force that would last a generation has been put aside - postponed, as his spokesmen say, in the better interests of wrapping it up with reform of the House of Lords - until after the next election.

Then there was Europe, the area where he sounded most tentative (but also most interesting). All the logic of Blair and Brown's position is that we should join the euro, and sooner rather than later. If England and Scotland are better for being in Britain, then Britain, in terms of his vision of community, is better for being part of the European monetary system. Blair seemed to believe that himself when delivering that part of his speech. Yet, disappointingly, he clearly felt unable to say it directly.

That was one disappointment. There were others as well, mostly sins of omission. There was no mention at all of tax (reform, let alone redistribution); no real appreciation of the seriousness of the management

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS



problems facing the Health Service; little about the questions of regulating financial flows, attacking monopolies, ensuring better service from the utilities, forcing the pace of corporation reform - all those detailed questions that must concern the management of economics today.

That, at heart, remains the worry about this man who has, unsurprisingly, become a model for modern politicians through Europe and even Japan. When he talks of community and compassion, even that politically dangerous concept of "family values", with a carefully worded warning to the press not to take advantage of it to poke into politicians' lives (slim chance), it is not a

gesture to the values of Labour. He really believes it, but there is still something curiously ill-defined about the philosophy behind his values. That matters for the National Health, single-parent benefits and unemployment support. It matters in looking to the future and grappling with the possibility of recession, when public spending shoots up and incomes fall.

That is the hard business of government and the hardness of prime ministers in dealing with it. So we welcome the uncompromising tone and the drive for reform, but worry still that the future is quite as certain as Tony sees it.

Baseless optimism for the Middle East

IT IS hard to see why headlines on Palestinian-Israeli relations have suddenly burst into a chorus of hope. All that has been agreed by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, is that they will meet again in a couple of weeks. Even according to the most optimistic observers, any agreement reached in Washington in mid-October will only cover Israeli withdrawal from a further 13 per cent of occupied Palestinian territory.

If negotiations reach that stage, further obstacles will present themselves. Israel will have to decide whether it recognises a sovereign state called Palestine; the Palestinians will need to consider whether they insist on East Jerusalem being part of that state. It is a mark of how long it is since the last progress made under the Oslo peace accords - now deadlocked for almost 18 months - that anyone is becoming excited over "agreements" which do not even approach these problems.

The main players have problems with their own supporters. The fringe parties that sustain Mr Netanyahu seem unlikely to accept any deal, and Mr Arafat, for his part, has met Israeli demands so many times that his credibility among radical Palestinians has collapsed. It is farcical for Israel to demand security guarantees that, due to their own refusal to compromise, Mr Arafat is in no position to give.

The sudden upsurge in hopeful comment seems to owe much to the Clinton administration's media skills, pressed into service to divert attention from its domestic problems. We should not be taken in by this, nor by Mr Netanyahu's desperation to still international criticism. Progress is to be welcomed, but the conflict cannot be resolved by gestures from those with neither the power nor the will to reach a real agreement.

History in briefs

A RASH of time-capsules is breaking out across the world. The Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, is burying one. And a French satellite is being launched that will send back pictures of the Earth after 50 years. The sad thing is that we do not seem to have very much to say. Islington's capsule will contain nothing but branded goods, including the definitive statement of our age: photographs of models wearing Marks & Spencer underwear. Our descendants may look on us with pity, rather than understanding.

Old Labour is alive, well, and busy giving New Labour a kicking

RUMOURS OF the death of the Labour Party conference have turned out to be premature. This week's elections and debates have shown it to be very much alive and kicking. The election of the centre-left Grassroots Alliance candidates to four out of six constituency places on the national executive, and the robust performance of trade union leaders such as John Edmonds and Rodney Rickerstaffe in the discussion of economic policy, showed that the party conference remains a real forum of debate.

Earlier in the year, with the cash for access scandal, we had a foretaste of what would fill the vacuum if ordinary party members and trade unionists were denied their say in the Labour party's policy-making process. Without the counter-weight of the Labour Party's democracy, the wholly unaccountable forces of big business would have almost total sway over the channels of access to ministers. Indications of what would replace democratic elections and conference votes, if the control freaks had their way, are all over Blackpool this week. Delegates' badges advertise Somerset, and the Conference Guide is full of glossy ads for the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance, British Nuclear Fuels and Nestlé, while other companies lay on lavish refreshments to lure delegates to fringe events that are devoted to boosting their firm's profit line.

The big vote for the Grassroots Alliance slate in the NEC elections was by no means simply a vote for the left. On its own, as the 31 per cent vote for Socialist Campaign Group candidates in 1994, 1995 and 1996 showed, the left represents little more than a third of the party membership. Last year,

faced with Peter Mandelson's first bid for elected office within the party, the left was joined by many from the centre and old Labour right, so that candidates opposed by the establishment received 39 per cent of the vote.

In the subsequent year, this process developed further to produce a real coalition of the left, the radical democrats and Hattersleyites of Labour Reform and soft-left readers of *Tribune*, in the Grassroots Alliance. People such as Andy Howell, chair of Labour Reform, argued that socialist values could be realised only via radical democratisation, while the left stressed that the free market alone would never deliver social justice. The result was convergence in an alliance whose views tallied with the concerns of most party members.

This is no cause for triumphalism. The election was not a victory for Labour Briefing or any other grouping. It was a victory for the decent party members who want to keep our party Labour. The efforts of Neil Kinnock and David Aaronovitch to smear the candidates as far-left Trotskyists and distort the slate's political views simply did not wash with the ordinary members who know better. In fact, the Grassroots Alliance offended the secularists on the left as much as it did some of the party establishment. People such as the far-left Socialist Organisation urged people not to vote for the Grassroots Alliance slate because it did not meet their misguided standards of ideological purity.

That is why people who have traditionally been as far apart on the political spectrum as myself and Roy Hattersley were delighted by the results and hope very much that the

alliance will go from strength to strength as a model of political pluralism.

The big issue now is how the leadership will respond to what has happened. Two approaches are emerging. The Millbank fundamentalists say the vote of the party membership is irrelevant. They relish the idea of an eternal holy war against any deviation from the true faith. Like so many religious fanatics, they seem driven by an inability to construct proper human relationships, to find another outlet for their energies. This group has already significantly discredited itself. London delegates were incensed to learn that regional officials were sitting around drawing up ham-fisted psychological portraits to determine who should and shouldn't speak at conference. Millbank tried to kill the story by claiming they had sacked someone, but we have yet to learn whether disciplinary



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Regional officials drew up ham-fisted psychological portraits as to who should speak at conference

action was directed against those who wrote the reports or the person who leaked it!

David Aaronovitch's piece in yesterday's *Independent* typifies this tendency to permanent conflict. Having wasted most of his early years in pointless factional wars inside the Communist Party, he suggests the Labour Party should adopt a similar approach to dissent. Whatever he may think, most voters will have recognised that issues such as interest rates, retaining public ownership of the Post Office and the impact of the pound's exchange rate on manufacturing industry are worth discussing in an open way.

Those whose factories are threatened by closure or who dread the monthly mortgage bill will have been delighted to see that attempts to turn the conference into a simple rubber stamp for policies made elsewhere seem to have failed. Of course, it would have been better if, at the end of the discussion, there had been a vote, because it undoubtedly would have resulted in support for lower interest rates and an exchange rate at which the British economy is able to compete. That may not yet be the view of Gordon Brown or the Bank of England Governor, Edie George, but the TUC, the CBI and most of the Labour Party conference delegates think differently.

It is simply not true that the Treasury's orthodoxy is the only possible economic policy. Ten years ago, in *Livingstone's Labour*, I said that Labour should become the party of low inflation and sound money. I argued against endless devaluations as a way forward because they are manifestations of the problems in the UK

economy, not a cure for them. But that does not mean we should try to hang on to an over-valued pound when it is destroying our manufacturing industry. It means that interest rates and the exchange rate should be set at levels that encourage investment. Progressive taxation is necessary not as revenge against the rich, but to ensure that lower interest rates don't stoke up inflation, and to divert resources from the present record levels of company dividend payments into productive investment. That is vital, because underlying every other problem and the cause of this country's century long economic decline is that we invest a far lower share of our economy than do our competitors in Europe or Asia.

You can agree or disagree with these views, but probably most of the Labour movement now agrees that they are a practical alternative to the risk of a deeply damaging recession.

A second section of the leadership has taken a different approach to what has happened this week. They recognise that, as the only section of the NEC elected by secret ballot of the entire membership, the constituency section election is the best possible barometer of what party members think. Tom Sawyer warned in a newspaper interview this week: "There is a perception of a class of people around the top of the Labour Party who are not elected, who do not account to anybody and who have enormous influence over the Government. That is a perception. I am not saying it is true. The message has got to be that the most important people at Blackpool are the Labour party delegates."

On this matter, at least, Tom is right.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to be seen as beautiful because of my disability, not in spite of it."
Aimee Mullins, fashion model

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A man who does not lose his reason over certain things has none to lose."
Gottfried Ephraim Lessing, German dramatist



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the devastation wrought by Hurricane Georges



hurricane season still has two months to go. *Newsweek*

A SENSE of dread hung over New Orleans as the city braced

itself for the arrival of Hurricane Georges. Tens of thousands of residents were fleeing along clogged roads. The escape routes were painfully few. In every part of the city there

was a palpable tension and a nervousness. By nightfall, the city had tucked itself in, locked its doors and huddled to await the storm.

New Orleans Times Picayune

GEORGES' WESTERLY route caused more damage in Cuba than expected and, because it was longer, helped South Florida. Fidel Castro declared before the storm hit that because of the US economic embargo, Cuba would not accept storm

aid from the States. That's just one more example of how US-Cuba relations have degenerated to the point of mutual lunacy. Georges was expected to grow in intensity and make another landfall, perhaps today. A hurricane's path is outside of human control. The response this time - should help Georges' victims here and in the Caribbean. We were lucky. Now we can be generous. *Palm Beach Post*

THIS HURRICANE is serious business. Even if Tampa Bay is spared a direct hit, Georges is expected to bring strong winds, heavy rains, flooding and sporadic tornadoes across a wide swath. It is not an experience for thrill-seekers or those who cannot persevere for days without the conveniences of modern living. Staying informed and prepared is a price we must pay to live on Florida's coast. The greatest danger we face is our own complacency. *St Petersburg Times, Florida*

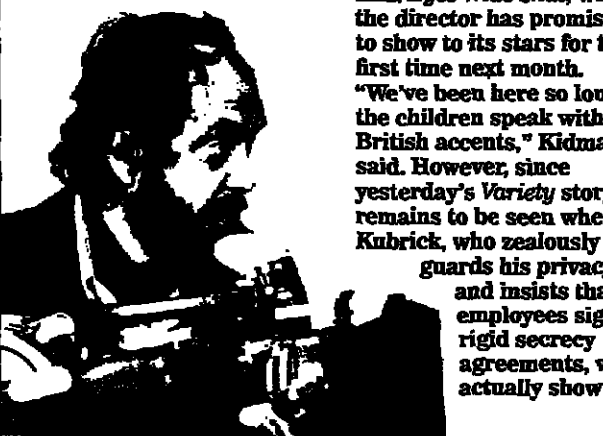
FOR THE Caribbean survivors, things will likely get worse before they get better. The storm left at least 100,000 Dominicans homeless - more than 10 times the number that government shelters can accommodate. They'd better rebuild fast. Meteorologists at the US Hurricane Center in Miami have detected three other hurricanes swirling simultaneously in the Atlantic. Though they were not expected to reach land, they underscored one harrowing truth: the

PANDORA

FRIENDS OF Peter Mandelson have spoken of his hilarious wit, and Pandora can now share a charming example of same. On Monday, Mandelson was waiting to appear on a Channel 4 television feed, live from Blackpool, when the TV folk realised they were short of one make-up artist. Instead, they drafted in a Talk Radio producer, Jo Phillips, who was based in the next studio, to help brighten Mandy's features. When Phillips entered the room, Mandy quipped: "Do you want to touch me up?"

MONDAY EVENING'S party for Nigella Lawson's new cookbook *How To Eat*, held in London's new One Aldwych hotel, had a guest list that could be published as a small book entitled *The Chattering Classes*. Those in attendance included Salman Rushdie, Alan Yentob, Sir Robin Day, Martin Amis, Alexandra Shulman, Lord Saatchi, Piers Paul Read, Matthew Evans, Michael Heath, the author's father Nigel, her brother Dominic, and many others. However, the one guest whose presence was truly an honour was that of Nigella's husband, John Diamond. Just 10 days out of hospital after his second major cancer operation, John glowed with pride for his beautiful and talented wife. It was certainly the book party of the year - and produced a candidate for remark of the year. New Labour's favourite PR woman, Julia Hobsbawm, eight months pregnant and looking lovely - but impatient - was asked why she wasn't in Blackpool. Patting her bump, she declared, "To hell with Labour. I just want labour."

HAVING ABANDONED his former girlfriend and child, and gushed out his feelings for the late Diana, Princess of Wales in his autobiography, the former England rugby captain Will Carling's national popularity has probably never been more desperate. What better time, then, to launch a 19-city UK lecture tour, in which Carling promises to describe "his spectacular career, both on and off the field". However, according to a spokeswoman for the tour promoters Huti Russell: "The question and answer session may prove... er..."



WILL THE reclusive, camera-shy director Stanley Kubrick (pictured) make a rare public excursion this week and visit the Donmar Warehouse to watch Nicole Kidman's critically acclaimed performance in *The Blue Room*? That's the suggestion of *Variety* columnist Amy Archerd, whose interview with Nicole appeared yesterday. She and husband Tom Cruise have spent several years working for perfectionist Kubrick in his forthcoming film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, which the director has promised to show to its stars for the first time next month. "We've been here so long, the children speak with British accents," Kidman said. However, since yesterday's *Variety* story, it remains to be seen whether Kubrick, who zealously guards his privacy and insists that his employees sign rigid secrecy agreements, will actually show up.

Pretentiousness? It's poetic licence



JOHN WALSH
Without pretension there would be no fine art, no poetry, no architecture, no advertising slogans...

A ROW has broken out in the world of fine wines, a real corker, a row with a spectacular nose, a firm attack and (let's hope) a long finish. Two of the nation's top oenologists are currently at each other's throats. One is Michael Broadbent, the upright, old-fashioned, bicycle-riding director of Christie's fine wine department; the other is Serena Sutcliffe, the aquiline, tremulous, polyglot supreme of Sotheby's international wine department.

Naturally you expect a certain professional rivalry between the opposite numbers of such competitive organisations. But, in a BBC TV documentary, *Vintner's Tales*, presented by Janice Robinson and to be screened next week, Mr Broadbent goes a little far. Asked why he never goes to the same wine tastings as Ms Sutcliffe, he replies: "Really, I find her haughty and rather nose-in-the-air. The word, if you really want the word, is 'pretentious'."

Pretentious, *elle*? Of all the words you might expect a wine expert to use in condemnation of another wine expert, "pretentious" is the last. For pretentiousness comes with the territory. It's a requirement

of the job. An unpretentious wine connoisseur would be as much use as a surreptitious town crier. Examples of Ms Sutcliffe can point to some spectacular feats of adjectival fireworks in her attempts to encapsulate the glory of crushed grape juice. She is fond of words such as *monumental, fabulous, incandescent, mythical, eternal, immense, archetypal, awe-inspiring, majestic* and "grandiose, in the

French sense" when describing upmarket drinks.

In the last year's auction of Andrew Lloyd Webber's wine collection, she identified the flavours of "jammy wonder", "glorious toastiness", "hawthorn and honey" and "the Cairo spice bazaar". In a number of expensive *premiers crus* classé claret, to her phenomenal, hair-trigger sensory arsenal, the 1989 Domaine de la Romanée Conti Burgundy was "rich coffee and undergrowth on the nose, cocoa on the palate".

You may, like Mr Broadbent, find this stuff hard to take. You may decide, like him, that the word... is pretentious. And I would reply: So what? What's wrong with being pretentious?

What, for example, is the alternative to Ms Sutcliffe's synaesthetic deductions? To say (as Mr Broadbent once said of a supermarket *vin ordinaire*) that it's "an ordinary, straightforward red colour and smells vaguely of wine"? Give me Ms Sutcliffe any day. To those who pool-pool E.M. Forster's reading of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as an uprising of goblins against their

Creator, I'd say it represents a more coherent response to the music than saying you like the tunes. To people who laugh at the Millennium Dome as not just overpriced but "pretentious", I'd say that's precisely why I love it - because it combines with such insouciance the qualities of biblical crown of thorns, royal crown and crown roast of lamb.

"Pretentious" is a word we hurl too readily at human attempts to see transcendent things in the everyday. If my neighbour claims to detect the odour of Kirov ballet tights in a bottle of Chilean merlot, if my daughter sees the shadow of mortality in a melting ice-cream, or if I claim that a three-line hallway by Lao-tzu is the finest expression of love in the history of poetry, we may all be guilty of pretension - but at least we tried.

For the enemies of pretension are far worse than its exponents. We detect pretension in others when we dislike their claims to a sensitivity that's greater than our own. We think they're just pretending a response. They're taking a rapture we don't (or can't) share. They see stars where we see mud. They are

either lucky bastards or they're posey charlatans. Let's agree it must be the latter.

But it's the *courting* of pretension that makes life worthwhile. If we like or love or hate something, if we feel joy or pain or sorrow and look for some metaphorical correlative of it in the outside world, let us indulge ourselves as we like without this dull, prosaic condemnation. We may be imprecise or overly colourful, we may make idiots of ourselves, but at least we expressed it, whether the result was an over-excited tasting note or Chartres Cathedral.

For without the occasional foray into grandiosity (in the English sense), affectation or even vanity, life would be ghastly. Without pretension there would be no fine art, no poetry, no architecture, no advertising slogans, no religion, no Zen, no couture fashion, no speeches, no metaphors, hardly any pop lyrics, no satire. The world would be a place of cold sense, precise description, modest utterance, a grim calibration of external facts, a sterile dystopia of functional buildings and sensible clothing. And all the wine would taste just of wine.

Tony makes them feel like dancing, but he frightens me



ANNE MCELVOY
Blair is unashamed to be called authoritarian in pursuit of goals he knows most voters share

THE MUSICAL build-up in Blackpool had changed from the usual feel-good disco stomp to the soaring, sonorous harmonies of an African choir. Not a note, verbal or musical, is struck in the Winter Gardens without precise calculation of its effect on our spirits. The hallowed strains were an invitation to a mood of sober reflection: this time, the Prime Minister was saying, it is time to get serious.

Having roughed up his own party, he is now setting out on the really difficult bit: roughing up the rest of us. New Labour has been accused of being disproportionately tough on the poor and workless. Now it is the turn of others, less accustomed to the smack of firm government, to be the intended recipients of Mr Blair's pep talk. Business was politely and firmly told to stop moaning about the high pound and attend to its low productivity. Teachers were scolded for insufficient enthusiasm about the Government's standards drive. Doctors and managers, the NHS elite, are to be tested on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the drugs and treatments they prescribe. Here was an extraordinary forthright attack on the complacency of the public sector middle classes, protected heretofore by the carefully-tended perception that they "do a wonderful job" and that it is somehow mean-minded to ask whether this is actually true in all cases.

Here was a speech of coded warnings of toughness on just about every front - in the economy, in education, towards the criminally inclined and the trade unions. His tone towards the last two was pretty much identically menacing. If the message from the TUC conference and the Left's advances was "Be Afraid", Mr Blair was using Blackpool to tell us that he wasn't.

For a Prime Minister whose stock-in-trade until recently was ease and accessibility, he is becoming a wee bit scary. The applause before the end of sentences seemed to me a sign that the audience is slightly nervous of him. Warmth has been replaced by respect. Still, it is all in a good cause. From zero-tolerance in high crime areas, to closing bad schools and sacking their heads, a more discriminating system of rewards for those in the public sector to reflect performance and a widening of the role of health visitors throughout the childhood years and into adolescence: the shrewd calculation of Mr Blair's list of social improvements is that it uses the power of the state for social purposes most people will find welcome.

He has perfected the knack of selling the same set of policies twice with different labels to different audiences and yesterday's speech will be presented to the centre-left as putting substance on the commitment to widen "social inclusion". At the same time, the tent was audaciously pitched on

traditionally Conservative turf with an autumn Green Paper intended to shore up the fractious and fragmented British family.

The old Tory charge was that Labour was the provisional wing of the bossy state, unfailingly eager to get its size nine social-worker boot through the front door of ordinary people, disturb the peace of the hearth and run their lives for them. But who is seriously going to object to these policies? Things cannot go on as they are. Ask people who live in crime-ridden estates or whose children are condemned to schools in which teachers have been reduced to mere agents of social control - and not particularly effective ones at that.

Mr Blair has absorbed the admonishments of Conservative critics. To their horror, he is acting tough on the very things they expect Labour governments to be soft on. What will they mean about now?

But there are some risks inherent in such a centralised approach to social ills as the one Mr Blair laid out yesterday. The implementation of Zero Tolerance must not be allowed to become a shield behind which over-zealous, sluggish or downright racist policemen can shelter. The line between strict and harsh policing is difficult enough to observe under existing conditions of high pressure, often compounded by racial tension between communities and the police. It will become even more difficult when forces are being given central orders to redouble their efforts in target areas, which are, by definition, tense and troubled.

At the same time as Mr Blair is inviting Chief Constables to preside over a more energetic clampdown on crime, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is preparing an assault on the ingrained culture of unaccountability in some police forces and the reluctance of good members of the



The Blairs meet delegates after his speech. Brian Harris

force to inform on colleagues who bend or break the rules.

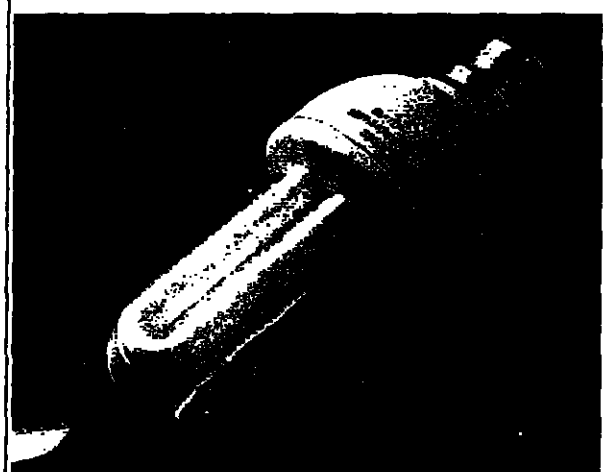
It is not an outright contradiction. But in order to avoid accusations that Mr Blair's preferred crime reduction strategy will not mean an uncritical embrace of heavy tactics in troubled spots, Mr Straw will have to ensure that his determination to hasten reform of police management keeps pace with the desire to achieve a down turn in street crime.

The return to welfare reform in a bill in the autumn is a raspberry to those who thought it was all over when Frank Field quit office. One of the odder political side-shows has been right wing welfare state reformers heaping uncritical praise on Mr Field, who has just shown robustly Old Labour credentials by demanding a 50 per cent tax for high earners.

From its early mishaps and mis-handlings of welfare reform, the Government has learned to proceed more incrementally and to tackle welfare problems one-by-one, instead of launching a Jihad whose goals appear to me to be perfectly

right, but which ran into trouble on so many fronts that it was in danger of derailing the entire project. So the autumn will see a review of disability benefits - the most fatally elastic part of the social security budget, but also one of the most sensitive and with a well-organised and vociferous lobby defending to status quo. Mr Blair, we see again, is not shy of a fight.

He spoke yesterday as a Prime Minister unashamed to be called authoritarian in pursuit of goals he knows that the majority of voters share and with a determination he knows that they relish. But his centralising tendencies are becoming unignorable and at odds with other New Labour commitments to spread more decision-making away from Westminster. From next year, when the elections to Scotland's parliament prepare the way for the first real alternative power centre to Westminster, that will have to change. Yesterday, we saw a man grown so confident in handling power that he will find giving it up a lot more difficult than he imagines.

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We can be God's beacon of hope to all

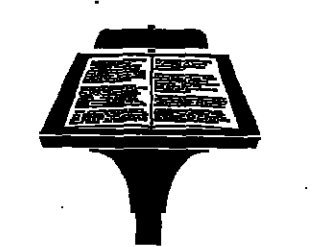
I HAVE in recent times been drawn to a lovely phrase used by St Paul in the Letter to the Galatians. He is speaking about the coming of Christ and all that went before in preparation for this momentous event, and the phrase is, "in the fullness of time" - the incarnation did not happen too soon or too late, but at just the right time, when everything was in place.

And that phrase is apt, to describe what happened in South Africa. Certain things, factors and people had to be in place - the ingredients, the mix, had to be just right for the alchemy to work. Our country rejected the call for a blanket amnesty, because this would have helped to heal the pains inflicted by the horrors of the past. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it. It comes back nightmarishly. The English and Afrikaners in South Africa are both white, and appear to get on amicably, but everyone knows that is all illusory. Whenever something happens to disturb the calm, then the tension, and anger, and bitterness,

certainly in the Afrikaners, come to the surface. The reason is that these two race groups have never faced up to what happened during the Anglo-Boer War, when thousands of Boer women and children were put into concentration camps. Recently, on a trip to the Davao Economic Forum, I drove with a young Afrikaner from Zurich. He told me that whenever his grandmother told him what had happened to her, then he was ready to fight the Anglo-Boer War all over again.

Amnesia was unacceptable also because it really was victimising the victims a second time, by effectively denying that they had suffered a violation of their rights.

Have we had any truth? We wish, obviously, that we could have uncovered much more. But what we have had is a very great deal more than we could have imagined. Now we know what happened to Steve Biko, to the Cradock Four, the Peapo Three. Now we know of the previous government's chemical and biological warfare programme, which I have described as the most diabolical thing that has come before the Truth and Reconciliation



PODIUM
DESMOND TUTU
From the Independent
Newspapers Lecture by the former Archbishop of Cape Town, at Trinity College, Dublin

Commission. Some of those who were involved with it have alleged that it had sinister programmes, such as those to reduce the fertility rate of black women, and to find germs that would target only black people, and they were producing anthrax and cholera which they said they would use on people outside South Africa, as if that made it more moral. It is alleged that they wanted to poison Nelson Mandela,

so that his brain would have been affected in prison, and that he would not survive too long after his release. It boggles the mind, and one sighs with relief that they did not succeed. Imagine what would have happened to stability and reconciliation in South Africa.

They were involved in the production of several tons of Mandrax, and one wonders whether the scourge of drug trafficking that has afflicted especially black areas may not, in part, be due to this nefarious programme. In some respects there was a 007 air about it, with various gadgets for poisoning opponents. Even if they had denied most of these allegations, we know one person they did try to poison who lived to tell the tale - Dr Frank Chikane, now Director General in Dr Thabo Mbeki's office.

The question is, how many such attempts were made and how many died? It reminds me so much of the pictures I saw of Dachau, of white-coated German scientists performing experiments on fellow human beings. Yes, we have found enough to paint a coherent picture of the past and the kind of atmosphere that

prevailed which made it possible for the ghastly atrocities to take place.

We were trying to find the truth, not for prosecuting, but to try to heal a traumatised people, and in order to ensure that such things would not happen again. We were accused of being soft on Mrs Winnie Mandela, and with Mr PW Botha. But nobody else went through an 11-day grilling such as that of Mrs Mandela and we got her, even if reluctantly, to say "sorry", perhaps for the first time in public. What did people expect us to do to extract information? There was ultimately nothing we could do, short of putting them on the rack and torturing them.

We are going to succeed because God wants us to succeed. God wants to point to us - South Africa is an unlikely example to be held up to the rest of the world. If our case was so hopeless, imagine the hope it can give to others. God will say: they were not smart, they were certainly not virtuous, but look at them now. They used to have a nightmare called apartheid. That has ended. Your problem, too, will be solved.

09/10/2000

A case of incurable optimism



ROBERT FISK

'Why do we not rage against those who accept that our betters are right preferring missiles to medicine?'

YEARS BEFORE her death, my mother told me there must be no black ties at her funeral. "Everyone must wear bright clothes," she said. "There must be lots of flowers and happy hymns." And a few days ago, in the beautiful little church at Barning, just outside Maidstone, she had the funeral she asked for. There were mountains of flowers, not a black tie in sight - even the bearers wore casual suits - and the congregation sang "All things bright and beautiful". But my mother's death was not as she would have wished. And it was certainly not a death she deserved.

My father, Bill, was much older than Peggy, already 47 when he married her in 1946. He was borough treasurer of Maidstone and a son of the former first mate on the *Cutty Sark*, the sailing clipper that is now in permanent dry-dock at Greenwich. Peggy was 26, the daughter of well-to-do Kentish café-proprietors. Both had served their country. Bill was in the trenches of northern France in the First World War (Battle of Arras, 1918) and, as head of the local Home Guard in 1940, was asked by MI6 to lead a Maidstone resistance organisation to harass the Nazis after the expected German invasion; I still possess my father's ambitious plans for blowing up Maidstone East railway station and the adjoining high level bridge over the river Medway. My mother joined the RAF during the Battle of Britain, mending Spitfire radio sets at RAF Western Zoyland; her sister trained air gunners in radio navigation.

Peggy became a flame of optimism over my young life. "Everything will always work out alright in the end," she used to say to me. And when I once asked what was the point of struggling with my homework when we were all going to die one day, she replied: "By the time you grow up, they may have found a cure for that." In a way, my mother did believe in immortality and I took her incurable optimism with me, thousands of miles from Kent to Afghanistan, through the terrible battles of the Iran-Iraq war and to the conflict in Lebanon.

But there was another side to Peggy. As father fretted in retirement, she became a magistrate. I recall how one day, gently arguing with my father - whose views on criminal justice might have commended themselves to Judge Jeffreys - Peggy said, quite sharply: "The accused often tell the truth - and I don't always trust policemen." As a small boy, the first book she urged me to read on my own was the *Diary of Anne Frank* - because she wanted me to understand the nature of goodness. During the Israeli siege of Beirut in 1982, she discovered a rare telephone line into the Lebanese capital from Maidstone and used it to tell me how she deplored the cru-



Peggy Fisk with her husband: she believed everything would work out alright in the end and that there might even be a cure for death

elity visited upon the Palestinians. She asked me repeatedly why governments spent so much money on guns.

She took up painting, water-colours and oils, still life and portraits. My father was a loyal man. He could be proud and generous but also censorious and authoritarian and he sometimes bullied Peggy, although his closest friends would not have known this. As she looked after him in his last years - he was to die in 1992, aged 93 - she talked quietly of the life of independence she would lead afterwards. She wanted to travel, to visit Lebanon and go to Ireland. She saw a lifetime of painting in front of her.

But just before my father died, she was told she had Parkinson's Disease and steadily lost the physical ability to live a dignified life - as surely as she maintained the will to survive. Within four years, she could scarcely speak or walk. So she communicated by pointing with a stick to letters on a piece of cardboard. Then she could no longer point. She insisted on moving around the garden of her home in a wheelchair. Then Peggy became too ill to move. Her last attempt to paint ended when she threw her brush onto the floor in frustra-

tion. Almost to the end, she believed they would find a cure for Parkinson's - the same "they" who might also one day find a cure for mortality.

In her last days, Peggy lost the power to swallow or eat and caught pneumonia. When I arrived home, she was desperately trying to cough, apparently drowning in her own lungs, weeping with pain. And as I watched her dying, I remembered the cost of Bill Clinton's latest adventure in the Middle East; in all, the US government spent \$70m in five minutes firing Cruise missiles into Afghanistan and Sudan. How much had it spent on investigating Parkinson's disease? How much, for that matter, had the British government spent?

The day after she died - there was no glimmer of recognition or emotion, Peggy just stopped breathing - I called the Parkinson's Disease Society in London. Each year they put up between a £1m and £1.5m on research. So did the British government. But last year, an official for the society told me, the Medical Research Council stopped funding neurological research: "no reason given." I called New York to talk to one of the top Parkinson's groups in the United States. Around £30m

was spent by the US government on neurological research (not all on Parkinson's), another £7m by private organisations, around £2.5m by the US Defence Department (for veterans) and pharmaceutical companies around £27m. So we - the West - were spending less on Parkinson's research in a year than we spent in five minutes on weapons.

It was the kind of human folly Peggy would have understood. And at her flowered funeral, I decided to point this out. I suggested to her friends who came to Barning church that we spent far too much time accepting cruel deaths, uncomplaining when money which might have cured cancer or Alzheimer's or Parkinson's was spent on weapons or military adventures. "Why do we not rage against those who accept the shameful idea that sickness must be 'incurable', that our betters know what they are doing when they prefer missiles to medicine?" I asked. "If resources had been better spent," I said, "Peggy would not have been in that coffin in front of the altar."

All this had an odd effect. You could have heard a flower petal drop when I was speaking. But the Rector, a kindly, intelligent man,

though evidently not from Church Militant, responded with a prayer, saying he would "commit this anger to God" - which, of course, entirely missed the point. Unless there is a Heavenly Post Office which redirects packages of anger to our presidents and prime ministers, there wasn't much point in bothering the Almighty. It was Peggy's friends I was addressing. Some of them had told me of their own relatives who were dying of supposedly incurable diseases; yet I felt afterwards that I had failed to make them understand as surely as I had the Rector.

They talked about Peggy being "at rest" now that she was no longer suffering. Letters arrived that spoke of Peggy's "release" - as if my mother wanted to die. I heard from one lady about "God's will" - which would suggest, if taken to its logical conclusion, that God was a sadist. If the message of Peggy's life was optimism and joy for others, the manner of her death - courtesy of our society's inverted values - was totally unnecessary. My father, an old-fashioned man, would have condemned my remarks in the church. My mother might have objected to their vehemence. But she would have wanted me to tell the truth.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HILARY ARMSTRONG



The Housing Minister replies to our article calling for the demolition of bad housing estates

THIS GOVERNMENT is committed to healing the divisions in our country. Our report *Bringing Britain Together*, launched last week, sets out a co-ordinated strategy to transform the lives of those trapped in areas of deprivation.

Many of these, but by no means all, are council estates. They are far from being all tower blocks. Some of them have been pockets of poverty for many years. Turning these neighbourhoods round, making them work for the people who live there, will take enormous effort from both central and local government, and from local communities.

As your leader reminded us, bold social experiments can become expensive flops. The key to reviving these neighbourhoods is putting people, not places, at the heart of the regeneration strategy. Our proposals are designed to help local people to take control over their own future.

In most cases, the communities can be turned round through renovation, or reduction to a human scale, rather than demolition - but if the right long-term solution is to demolish bad, unhealthy or unwanted housing, we will support that action. It is too pessimistic, however, to believe that this is the only solution. It is often the community that residents want rebuilt, not the housing.

A good example of this is Holly Street, where the report was launched, where tower blocks have been made places where people want to live.

There is no quick fix to these problems and no single answer. But, by mobilising resources at national, local and community levels, setting targets to improve the record of these poorest neighbourhoods on jobs, schools, housing and crime within five years, we can start to close the gap that has pushed too many to the margins of society.

Left to his own devices

THE BUSINESS of biography is like a political futures market, where promising stocks are bought up as a gamble on their imminent rise. Hence publishers' lists are an archaeology of recent history, reminding us who were the rising stars of two years ago. Who now remembers that brief period when Kenneth Clarke was a dead cert to become prime minister? By the time his two biographies hit the shops, his bloated corpse was floating, metaphorically, under Westminster Bridge.

John Kampfner's book, then, is a reminder of the high hopes that were vested in Robin Cook before the election, especially by the libertarian left. It was even speculated by the anonymous Labour MP called "Cassandra" in *Tribune* that Cook would replace Tony Blair within months of Labour victory. That was always silly, but few would have predicted quite how silly it would seem now.

The puzzle of Cook is how one of the Big Four in opposition - who joined Blair, Brown and Prescott in the "big guns" meeting before the weekly Shadow Cabinet - became so rapidly marginalised in government. One thing that this book puts beyond doubt is the weakness of Cook's



WEDNESDAY BOOK

ROBIN COOK

BY JOHN KAMPFNER, VICTOR GOLLANCZ, £16.99

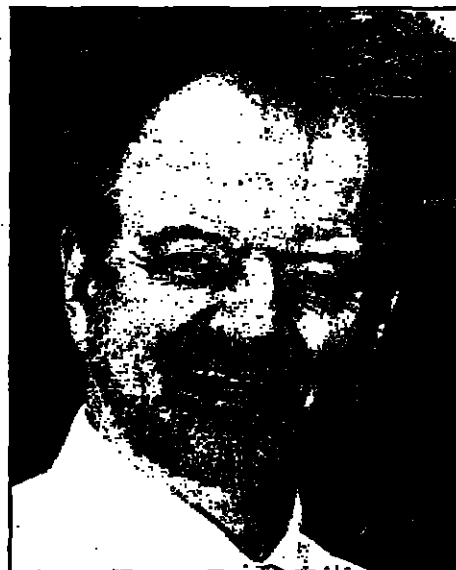
position, despite holding one of the great offices of state. Cook was already out in the cold to a surprising extent while in opposition. The account of the days before and after Labour's landslide victory is striking, when Cook was not even able to choose his number two as minister for Europe.

Two weeks before the election, Cook was told, "by Blair's aide Jonathan Powell", that, if Labour won, he could not keep his deputy, Joyce Quin. On the day after the election, Cook spent half an hour with the new Prime Minister, and asked to have Clive Soley or Peter Hain instead. Kampfner comments mildly that these were "unlikely" choices; there was no prospect that Blair would accept either of these low-ranking MPs, whose main qualification was their leftish

position. The next day, Cook read that Blair had offered the job to Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, and later he was told that in fact it would be filled by Doug Henderson. The new Foreign Secretary seems to have been passive throughout. He "accepted the decision in good grace" despite thinking that the appointment of Henderson, as an ally of his rival Gordon Brown, was a "genuine threat".

There is a lot of rivalry with Brown in the book, and the impression given is all the more poisonous because of Kampfner's sober and factual style. The picture is of a collection of fragile egos that occasionally try to be nice to one another, but are usually smug and retreat into the pursuing of grievances. It may be that one of Cook's first mistakes as Foreign Secretary was driven by a desire not to be outdone in propaganda terms by the Chancellor, who was branded "Flash" Gordon within five days of the election for his boldness in making the Bank of England independent. But Brown had been planning his coup for months with the full support of Blair, whereas Cook had nothing in his cupboard apart from the well-trailed end of the ban on GCHQ trade unions and the signing of the Social Charter.

The idea of a Foreign Office "mission statement" came from one of his special advisers. Cook agreed, and it was prepared within 10 days. At its launch on 12 May, Cook proclaimed that Britain would "once again be a force for good in the world... our foreign policy must have an ethical dimension". It was a hostage to fortune, and the ransom was soon demanded. Kampfner's sympathy for his subject does not prevent him quoting at length from a 1978 attack on the Labour Government's sale of arms to the "repressive" Indonesian regime by the *New Statesman's* defence correspondent, who would 20 years later be a Labour Foreign Secretary approving the sale of arms to the same country.



Robin Cook is no "Flash" Gordon

Kampfner's original interest in writing the book was "the role of the radical left in the Labour Party under Tony Blair", but he ended up writing something much more interesting: the story of a very clever man who has never been quite in the right place or the right time. Cook wanted to be Chancellor, but his Keynesianism - rather than his antipathy to Brown - rules that out. The failure of Cook's shares to rise partly reflects the fact that the radical left does not have much of a role under Tony Blair.

The one issue on which Cook's democratic radicalism has any hope of influencing the Government is that of electoral reform, but Cook - having launched the dialogue with the Liberal Democrats - is now out of the loop on domestic policy. So that hope has been all but snuffed out.

This impressively well researched book paints a picture of a front-rank politician who thought he could rely on the quality of intellectual argument to win through, but who realised, probably too late, that suffering fools was necessary too.

JOHN RENTON

WEDNESDAY POEM

O TASTE AND SEE
BY DANNIE ABSE

Because of a kiss on the forehead
in the long Night's infirmary,
through the red wine let light shine deep.

Because of the thirty-six just men
that so stealthily roam this earth
raise high the glass and do not weep.

Who says the world is not a wedding?
Couples, in their oases, hillyabye.
Let glass be full before they sleep.

Toast all that which seems to vanish
like a rainbow stared at, those bright
truant things that will not keep;

and ignorance of the last night
of our lives, its furnished breathing.
Then, in the red wine, taste the light.

This poem comes from Dannie Abse's new collection
'Arcadia, One Mile' (Hutchinson, £6.99)

WALK FOR WILDLIFE

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SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

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Under the terms of the Data Protection Act, you have the right to advise us at any time if you do not wish to receive further mailings from WWF, or organisations with whom we co-operate.

Casper Wrede

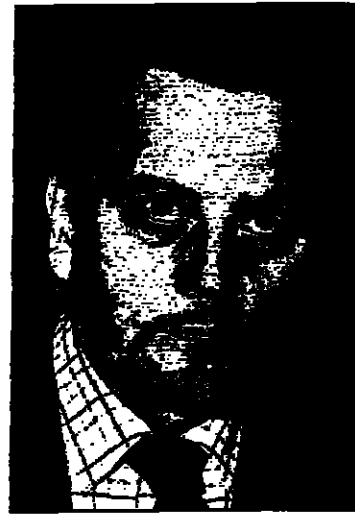
THE THEATRE director Casper Wrede is best remembered as the man who, with Michael Elliott, James Maxwell and, later, Braham Murray, created the company that has eventually emerged in Manchester as the Royal Exchange Theatre Company.

The building that houses this company, the old Cotton Exchange, was blown askew by the IRA one day in June 1996; but now, refurbished and expanded, it is due to re-open to the public on 30 November. Amidst the celebrations, many will feel the sadness of Casper Wrede's absence.

He was born heir to the title Baron Wrede of Elima in 1929, in Varberg, in the far-eastern region of Finland known as Karelia which the Russians annexed in the Thirties. At the age of 15 he found himself armed and fighting with the Germans against the Russians to recover Finnish soil. A few months later, he was fighting with the Russians against the retreating forces of Hitler's Third Reich.

The Second World War over, Wrede realised that life in an industrial family business, within an almost feudal society, was not for him. (Several decades later, he was to marry his childhood friend Karin Bang, who remained his loyal and devoted wife to the end.) His early influences were an aunt who ran the Swedish-speaking theatre in Helsinki, and the friendship of Amund Egnungstad, a mysterious guru-figure with whom he travelled around Norway and whose influence over his life was considerable. Wrede was still only 21 when, at Amund's suggestion, he travelled to England to enrol as a student on the director's course in the newly formed Old Vic School, where Glen Byam Shaw, George Devine and Michel St Denis were his tutors.

It was during his time there, in 1951, that he and a group of fellow students returned very late to their afternoon class with the excuse that he had been delayed by his marriage to Dilys Hamlett, one of the school's most promising actresses. A year or so later, his Edinburgh Festival production of Ibsen's *Miss Julie*, with Maggie Smith in the title role, moved to Oxford, bringing about his first meeting with the director Michael Elliott, with whom he was to work closely for many decades. Wrede spent two years with the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS) as a professional producer.

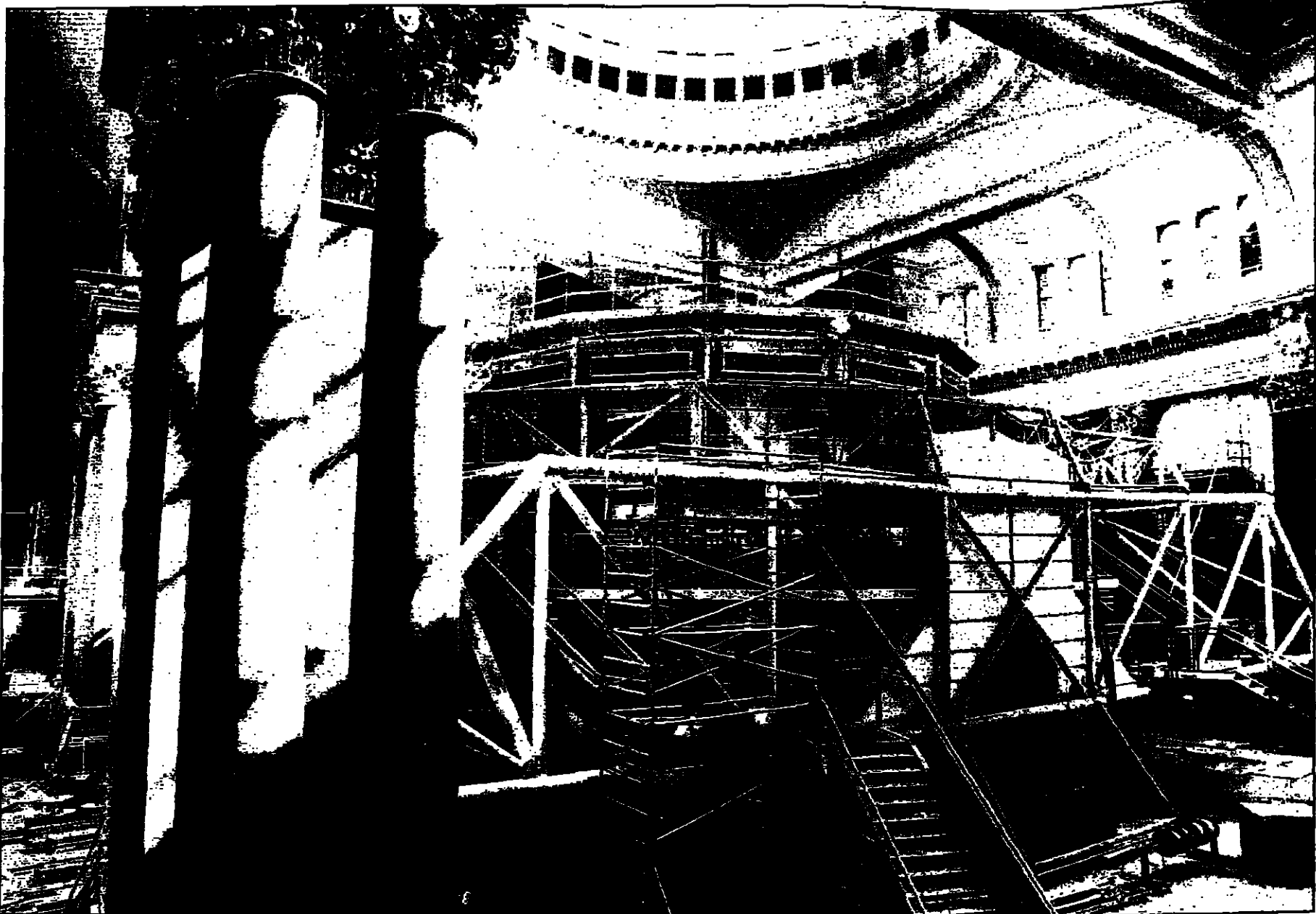


Yes, well, you see my dear, it is not so much this, it is rather more like this. You know – yes, yes – you know

rector Michael Elliott, with whom he was to work closely for many decades. Wrede spent two years with the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS) as a professional producer.

When television was still in its stuttering infancy in the mid-Fifties, Wrede and Elliott brought to the small screen for the BBC such classics as *Twelfth Night*, Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, Euripides' *The Women of Troy* and Ibsen's *The Lady from the Sea*.

Also for television, Wrede directed Laurence Olivier in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman*; Edith Evans in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*; Tom Courtenay in Alan Ayckbourn's *Time and Time Again*, and all the early television plays by Ronald Harwood. He also made documentaries, which included *The Summer in Gossensass* by Michael Meyer on the subject of Ibsen's old age, and



The 700-seater spaceship theatre of the Manchester Royal Exchange, co-founded by Wrede, in its final stages of restoration. It reopens in November Joel Fildes

Sibelius, a portrait of his fellow countryman.

Wrede's films for the cinema screen include *Private Potter* (1962), starring Tom Courtenay, *The Barber of Stamford Hill* (1963), *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1971), and *Ransom* (1955), with Sean Connery.

In 1959 Wrede founded the 59 Theatre Company which in a nationally acclaimed season brought to the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith, such work as his own production of George Büchner's *Danton's Death*, translated by James Maxwell, the premiere of Alan Owen's *The Rough and Ready Lot*, and Elliott's production of Ibsen's *Brand*. This was the beginning of a theatre movement which has continued up to the present. The 69 Theatre Company was the next stage, launched at the Edinburgh Festival in 1968 by Wrede's pro-

duction of *Hamlet*, starring Tom Courtenay.

Wrede's method as a director was quite unique. He could somehow make you "find" your performance without "pushing" you, as the following story illustrates. In the 1968 *Hamlet* I was attempting Horatio. With 10 days to go to opening night, I nervously approached Wrede and explained that the essential core of the role seemed to be eluding me. A twinkle came into his eye as he explained in his high-pitched Scandinavian tones: "Yes, well, you see my dear it is not so much this" – and he held his right hand at right angles to his left – "it is rather more this" – and he switched hands. "You know – yes, yes – you know." I didn't exactly know, but from then on, his apparent confidence in my efforts meant that I began to enjoy the search.

The 1969 Theatre Company kept

going for several years, until, after much searching for a permanent home, the old Manchester Cotton Exchange was found. It was derelict – knee-deep in rubble upstairs and empty downstairs – but Wrede and Elliott saw its possibilities, and commissioned young architects to design a theatre in the upstairs section.

At last, in 1976, the 700-seater module, floating below the triple-domed roof of the Exchange, was officially opened. Over the next two decades, Wrede's choice of productions in that magic circle reflected major interests in European drama and new work by British writers; indeed he was instrumental in establishing the Mobil Playwriting Competition launched in 1984.

He personally directed over 20 productions at the Exchange; among them the British premiere of Heinrich von Kleist's *The Prince of*

Homburg in 1976; Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* in 1983; his own adaptation of Nadezhda Mandelstam's *Hope Against Hope* (1983); Ronald Harwood's *The Family*, with Paul Scofield, in 1978; an award-winning production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* in 1985; a double bill of *Oedipus the King* and *Oedipus at Colonus*, the company's 100th production in 1987; Iain Heggie's *American Bagpipes* in 1988; and Robin Glendinning's *Donny Boy* in 1990 and my own *Class K* in partnership with Greg Hersov in 1985.

He was too wise a man to tell actors how to act. He could draw from a cast a harmonised performance as if by magic. He was a very serious man who was no stranger to struggle – and this seemed to give him a special understanding of the individual human mind and heart. When he laughed, it was with joyous tears in his eyes.

He loved England, English people and their pastimes. At the Spurs football ground one Saturday, many years ago, when the Chelsea striker, Peter Osgood, had persistently fouled an opponent (much to the annoyance of the Tottenham crowd), Wrede turned to the outraged, flat-capped man beside him and said in his strangled Finnish accent: "Yes, well, you see my dear, Osgood is on the wrong side of himself this afternoon." Amazingly, the man seemed to understand... as we all did – the lucky ones among us.

TREVOR PEACOCK

Casper Gustaf Kenneth Wrede, theatre director: born Varberg, Finland 8 February 1929; married 1951 Dilys Hamlett (one son; marriage dissolved 1976); 1982 Karin Bang (two daughters); died Helsinki 28 September 1998.

Cecil Hewett

THE DATING of timber-framed buildings was revolutionised from the early 1960s by Cecil Hewett.

Before that time, there had been a reluctance to attribute timber buildings that lacked an obvious historical context to any time before the 16th or 15th centuries. Two buildings which were to be central to Hewett's work, the barley and wheat barns erected by the religious order of the Knights Templar on their Essex manor of Cressing Temple, were for instance both put by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, in their county-wide survey of 1922, to the 16th century.

Hewett came to the problem from a practical background which led him to pioneer the study of the evolution of carpentry joints. He realised that their use must have been determined by the passage of time and fashionable trends amongst carpenters. At Cressing Temple, he was able to prove this, identifying the features of what are now termed "archaic carpentry", namely straight timbers, passing braces, notched-lap joints and spliced scarf joints.

His only precedent in this research was the Frenchman Henri Denoux, whose research on church and cathedral carpentry indicated an 11th- to 13th-century date for notched-lap joints. Confirmation of

Hewett's theories came from carbon 14 dating which put the Cressing barley and wheat barns to c1200 and c1275 respectively.

Hewett's early appreciation of timber-framed buildings first came from his father, a woodworker, and by walking and bicycling round Essex from his childhood home at Laindon. This experience of acquiring knowledge first-hand set the pattern for his later research in which he formulated his own ideas based on knowledge and logic irrespective of traditional received academic wisdom.

After National Service from 1944 until 1948, he trained in drawing, painting, silversmithing and cabinet-making at the former Chelmsford School of Art and at University College, Swansea. These crafts he taught in Essex schools for 19 years before taking up a post with the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Division in 1972, moving to Essex County Council's Historic Buildings Section in 1974.

Hewett's redating of the Cressing barns and other buildings did not go down too well everywhere, and proved to be a bombshell amongst the historical and architectural fraternity. For a number of years, researchers were split over his work, but gradually his ideas have gained acceptance, especially with the coming of the more precise



One should work like a 'tightly stretched string'

scientific technique of tree-ring dating.

Hewett's ability to illustrate his ideas with arresting sketches and drawings was noticed by the Essex historian and academic the late A.C. (Gus) Edwards who realised that, to reach the outside world, Hewett would need to write about his findings. Edwards took him in hand and, as a result, the new ideas reached Germany, Scandinavia and especially the United States where

Hewett was, and is, greatly admired. His numerous publications have reached a wide audience, and he contributed to several television programmes, notably *In Search of the Master Carpenters*, with Rene Cutforth.

It was most fortunate that in 1980 Hewett published his major work, *English Historic Carpentry*, his best and most useful assessment of vernacular carpentry, which is still selling well today. Shortly after this book appeared, he suffered a severe stroke that set him back almost totally, except that, even though unable to communicate in any way, he remembered all his knowledge. Gradually, through sheer willpower and battling against appalling frustration, he regained most of his faculties. Hewett had always thought that one should work, as he said, like a "tightly stretched string" in order to extract the most from one's mind. It is possible that this approach to life accelerated the onset of his stroke and of his final illness.

Cecil Hewett was a rather private man who did much of his early research whilst he was teaching. He was an inspired potter, silversmith and modelmaker, and there is a parable about all his work that is unforgettable. His style of illustration has been much copied. He sometimes would make a model to

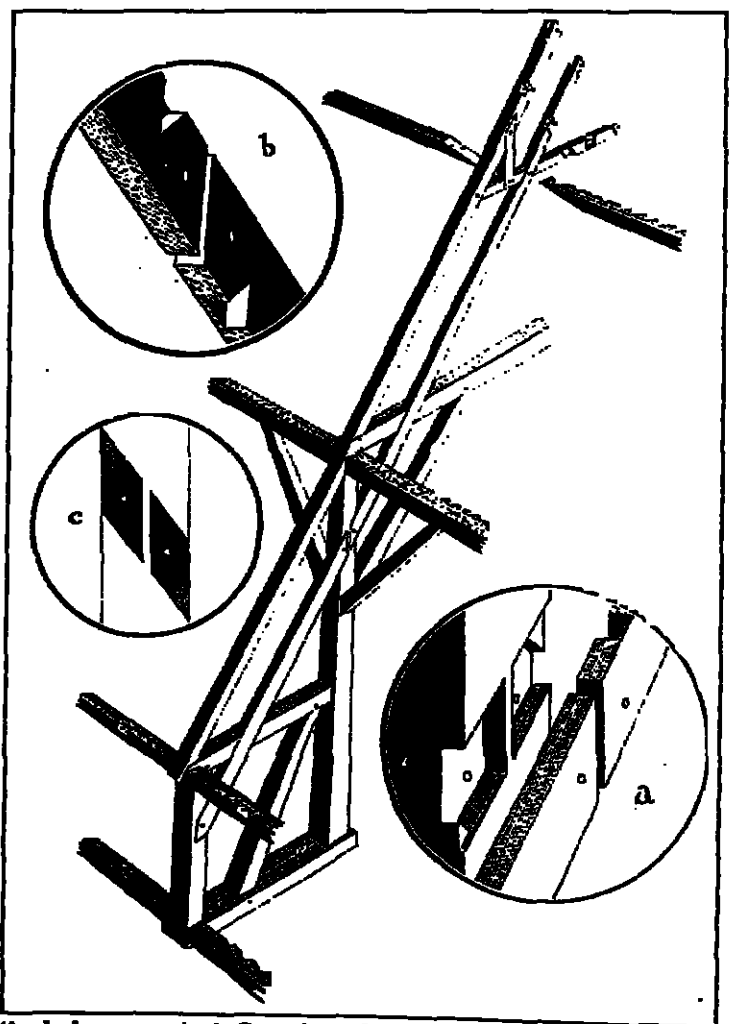
demonstrate a point. He did this to good effect when he cofounded a committee appointed in the Seventies to work out the age and construction methods of the famous round table at Winchester Castle reputed to be connected with King Arthur. Hewett appeared at the next meeting with a hatbox containing a complete, fully jointed model which he could wave around to demonstrate the rigidity of the structure.

The Science Museum in London has a number of models of Essex buildings which they commissioned from him in the early days.

Cecil Hewett's influence shows through in every listed building report on timber structures written these days. It is not many people of whom it can be said that they fundamentally changed the whole mode of thinking of experts in a whole field of study. Academic recognition only came late but was timely; in April this year Anglia Polytechnic University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Technology.

A. GIBSON
and D. ANDREWS

Cecil Alec Hewett, craftsman and historian of carpentry: born Laindon, Essex 26 September 1926; married 1957 Pat Burge (two sons); died Chelmsford, Essex 23 July 1998.



'Archaical carpentry': Cressing wheat barn, c1260, cross frame, showing simulated long timbers – a drawing by Hewett

Otakhon Latifi

OTAKHON LATIFI, who was gunned down outside his flat in the centre of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, is the latest victim in the unrest that has troubled this Central Asian country since it gained independence in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Latifi's career, from young Komsomol official to *Pravda* journalist to politician to exile to politician again to assassination victim, mirrored the psychological and physical upheavals of many Tajiks as they came to cope with the dramatic political changes that saw the Soviet system dissolve into a bitter five-year civil war.

Although a supporter of the Unit-

ed Tajik Opposition (UTO, an uneasy mixture of Islamists and democrats) against the neo-Communist rulers, Latifi was a moderate who tried to reconcile the two sides. His death will make more difficult the precarious process of national reconciliation, which has had a rocky ride since the peace accord signed by the two sides in Moscow in June 1997.

Since his return to Tajikistan from exile in Iran last year in the wake of the accord, Latifi had chaired the panel for legal issues under the National Reconciliation Commission, a joint government-opposition body which worked to stabilise the republic and to reintegrate

the opposition into the mainstream. In the months before his death, unknown attackers beat Latifi twice on the street. Despite these incidents he often went without his government-provided bodyguards.

Latifi was born in the Leninabad region of north-western Tajikistan into the family of a government official. After graduating from the journalism faculty of Leningrad University, he worked in a publishing house before joining Tajikistan's Komsomol newspaper for the Young Communist League. In 1966 he became an official of the Tajik Komsomol Central Committee.

The following year he returned to

journalism, becoming a special correspondent in neighbouring Uzbekistan for *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the national Komsomol paper. His satisfactory work led to promotion in 1971, when he began reporting from across Soviet Central Asia. In 1973 he became the Tajikistan correspondent for the Soviet daily *Pravda*, for which he worked for the next 16 years.

With the massive changes unleashed in the Soviet Union by Mikhail Gorbachev, Latifi turned to politics. In 1989 he became deputy chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers, with responsibility for science, culture, education and sport. He resigned in 1991 and once again fell

back on journalism, becoming *Izvestiya's* Tajikistan correspondent and later a correspondent for the weekly paper *Soyuz*.

However, Latifi remained politically active, chairing a pro-business party, the Popular Unity Front. He was a deputy prime minister in Tajikistan's short-lived national reconciliation government, set up in May 1992, which soon fell apart as the country collapsed into warring fiefdoms. Civil war had begun.

Latifi went into exile, living in neighbouring Afghanistan and Iran until 1997, with brief periods in Russia. It was in Moscow that he set up the Co-ordinating Centre for De-

mocratic Forces, a group supported financially by an international journalists' union. In 1993 he chaired the first two rounds of inter-Tajik peace talks held abroad.

He served on the UTO council and became a close aide to the deputy opposition leader Akbar Tajurajonzoda, the Tajik Muslim leader who turned against the Communists and had to flee with the collapse of the Islamist/democratic government. Tajurajonzoda was appointed first deputy prime minister in Tajikistan's coalition government earlier this year.

Despite Tajikistan's self-inflicted disaster of civil war and political up-

heaval, Latifi remained an optimist, believing Tajiks could themselves rebuild the country they had done so much to destroy. In 1991 he had started a private company called *Sinbad*, designed to bring Western tourists, particularly mountaineers, to Tajikistan to discover its incredible natural beauty. The civil war destroyed that business, but not Otakhon Latifi's faith in his country.

FELIX CORLEY

Otakhon Latifi, journalist and politician: born Pendjshent, Tajikistan, Soviet Union 17 March 1936; married (two sons); died Dushanbe 22 September 1998.

JPX 20 150

Professor Charles Kemball

CHARLES KEMBALL was not just a brilliant academic chemist, but made outstanding contributions to the universities he worked in and to the scientific community in general.

Born in Edinburgh in 1923, the only child of a dental surgeon, Kemball was educated at Edinburgh Academy. There he was rescued by a perceptive form-master from the Classics, towards which bright boys tended to be directed but for which he felt little aptitude. Only two years later he won an Exhibition on the science side into Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained a first-class Honours degree in Chemistry in 1943.

His postgraduate work in the Colloid Science department was on the adsorption of organic compounds on mercury surfaces; this led to the award of a research fellowship at Trinity in 1946. During a year at Princeton in 1946-47 in association with Professor H.S. Taylor FRS, this interest in surface chemistry was directed into the field of heterogeneous catalysis which ultimately became his chemical home.

After Kemball's return to Trinity, he was tempted into the post of Junior Bursar in 1949. Here, as later, he combined productive science with substantial administrative contributions, as well as participating in the good things of college life. Indeed, after a rope declined to take his weight when he was demonstrating a fire escape device to a colleague, a notice appeared in college which said, "Visitors are requested not to feed the Junior Bursar".

After a move to the Physical Chemistry department in 1949, Kemball studied exchange reactions of hydrocarbons by mass spectrometry (separating molecules by molecular weight). He found that the major product from the exchange of propane with deuterium over rhodium films was the perdeutero compound - a surprising discovery which was the starting-point for much fruitful work in the catalytic field. In 1951 he was appointed to a Demonstratorship in Physical Chemistry, obtained a College Lectureship a little later and was awarded the prestigious Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

His significant work at Cambridge led to his appointment to the Chair of Chemistry at Queen's, Belfast, where he continued his very productive work on catalysis. This brought various medals and prizes, including the Corday-Morgan medal of the Chemical Society, culminating in 1965 with election to the Royal Society. He had a successful spell as Dean of Science from 1957 to 1960 and later took on additional duties as Vice-President to assist the Vice-Chancellor in the organisation of the expansion of the university, a further opportunity for exercising his skill in devising creative administrative solutions, particularly for the fair distribution of resources.

After 12 years at Queen's he returned to Scotland in 1966 to take up the Chair of Chemistry at Edinburgh. Here his research on catalytic reactions and intermediates flourished, making perceptive use of new techniques as they became available and deepening the positive collaboration with industry which had begun in Belfast, particularly



Kemball, centre, Professor of Chemistry at Edinburgh University, presenting awards to winners of an essay competition from Perth and Dundee, 1979

with ICI. He introduced two new concepts into the rather traditional departmental organisation: a rotating headship and the use of an academic post to lighten the administrative load which fell on the teaching staff. He also reorganised the teaching, particularly in the first year, initiating a very successful course for students who were not taking Chemistry further.

He was Dean of Science in Edinburgh

the Royal Society of Chemistry, in whose formation by the unification of the first two he played a major part. He was heavily involved in the publications activities of the societies, finally as chairman of the Publications and Information Board of the Royal Society of Chemistry; here as in other work his business acumen made its mark.

Kemball served on numerous other committees and advisory boards, in-

cluding the Physical Sciences Subcommittee of the University Grants Committee, and particularly appreciated a seven-year spell as a governor of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, having spent school holidays on a farm. His move after retirement to the fertile agricultural environment of Tynninghame in East Lothian enabled him and his wife, Kay, to develop and enjoy a flourishing garden.

In 1983, Kemball retired from the Chair of Chemistry (though not from ac-

After a rope failed to take his weight when he was demonstrating a fire escape device, a notice appeared in college - 'Visitors are requested not to feed the Junior Bursar'

from 1975 to 1978. This was a difficult time financially for the universities and again he devised ingenious and fair solutions for the distribution of resources - and maintained morale. As Vice-Dean under him, I was initially a little scared of his efficiency, but his warmth and friendliness soon allayed my fears.

Meantime he made major contributions to the running of various scientific societies, including the Royal Institute of Chemistry (he was President from 1974 to 1976), the Chemical Society, and

cluding the Physical Sciences Subcommittee of the University Grants Committee, and particularly appreciated a seven-year spell as a governor of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, having spent school holidays on a farm. His move after retirement to the fertile agricultural environment of Tynninghame in East Lothian enabled him and his wife, Kay, to develop and enjoy a flourishing garden.

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Charles Kemball, chemist, born Edinburgh 27 March 1923; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge 1946-54; University Demonstrator in Physical Chemistry, Cambridge University 1951-54, Assistant Lecturer 1951-54; Professor of Physical Chemistry, Queen's University, Belfast 1954-66; FRS 1968; Professor of Chemistry, Edinburgh University 1966-83, Dean of the Faculty of Science 1975-78, Fellow 1983-88, Honorary Fellow 1988-96; CBE 1991; married 1956 Kay Purvis (one son, two daughters); died Tynninghame, East Lothian 4 September 1998.

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Princess Margaret, President, the Guide Association, gives a reception at Kensington Palace for Queen's Guides.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

GARDENERS' COMPANY

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners held their annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service yesterday at All Hallows by the Tower, London EC3. The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, preached the sermon. A Reception and Supper were held afterwards at Trinity House, London EC3.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Stanley Bailey, former Chief Constable of Northumbria, 72; The Rev Gordon Barritt, former Principal, the National Children's Home, 78; Lord Belstead, former government minister, 66; Sir Derek Birkin, former chairman, RTZ, 69; General Sir Edward Burgess, 71; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 57; Viscount Cranborne, former government minister, 52; Mr Hilton Dawson MP, 45; Professor Sir Eric Denton, marine biologist, 75; Miss Angie Dickinson, actress, 67; Sir Peter Fawcus, former Commissioner, Beauneland, 83; Mr Staffan Gadd, chairman, J.S. Gadd Cie SA, Geneva, 64; Mrs Teresa Gorman MP, 67; Mr Anthony Green, painter, 59; Mr Alan Hacker, clarinetist and conductor, 60; The Right Rev Patrick Harris, Bishop of Southwell, 64; Miss Deborah Kerr, actress, 77; Miss Rula Lenska, actress, 51; Mr Johnny Mathis, ballad singer, 63; Mr Ian Ogilvy, actor, 55; Mr Andrew Palmer, former ambassador to the Holy See, 61; Mr John Spiers, publisher, 57; Mr Stewart Steven, former Editor, the London Evening Standard, 63; Sir Peter Yarranton, former Chairman, Sports Council, 74.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Etienne de Condillac, philosopher, 1715; William

Hutton, local historian and topographer, 1723; Jacques Necker, financier, 1732; Fitzroy James Henry Somerset, first Baron Raglan, field marshal, 1788; Karl Begas, painter, 1794; Frederick Sleigh Roberts, first Earl Roberts, field marshal, 1832; Johan Severin Swendsen, composer, 1840; Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, composer, 1852; William Willett, promoter of daylight saving, 1856; Hermann Sudermann, playwright, 1857; Lewis Milestone, film director, 1895; John Innes Mackintosh Stewart ("Michael Innes"), literary scholar and writer, 1906; David Fyodorovich Oistrakh, violinist, 1908; Truman Capote, writer, 1924; Mare Bolan (Mark Feld), singer, songwriter and bandleader, 1947.

Deaths: St Jerome, 420; Sir Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, poet, murdered 1628; Henry King, poet and prelate, 1668; George Whitefield, religious leader, 1770; James Brindley, canal engineer, 1772; Augustin-François César Prouvençal de Saint-Hilaire, botanist and traveller, 1853; Franz Adam, painter, 1896; Georges-Ernest Jean-Marie Boulanger, French general and politician, committed suicide 1891; Charles Napier Henry, painter, 1917; Frederick Edwin Smith, first Earl of Birkenhead, Lord Chancellor, 1930; Sir Robert Hadfield, metallurgist, 1940; Richard Austin Freeman, author, and creator of "Dr

John Thorndyke", 1943; Lewis Fry Richardson, physicist, 1953; James Dean, actor, killed 1955; Simone Signoret (Simone Kaminker), actress, 1985.

On this day: the Siege of Yorktown began, 1781; Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* was first performed, Vienna 1791; the University of Berlin was opened, 1810; Bizet's opera *The Pearl Fishers* was first performed, Paris 1863; artificial silk (rayon) was first patented, 1902; the Balkan League was formed by Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro, 1912; Benito Mussolini formed the first Fascist government in Italy, 1922; the discovery of penicillin was first announced, 1928; the first experimental television broadcast by the BBC took place, 1929; Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* was first performed, Boston 1935; the *Morning Post* newspaper was last issued, 1937; Germany and the Soviet Union signed a pact agreeing on the partition of Poland, 1939; identity cards were issued in Britain, 1939; a British Expeditionary Force of 158,000 men was sent to France, 1939; after 277,264 flights, the Berlin airlift ended, 1948; Chienama was first exhibited by the inventor, Fred Waller, in New York, with the feature entitled *This is Cinerama*, 1952; Botswana became independent, 1966; BBC Radio 1 broadcast for the first time, 1967.

Today is the Feast Day of St Gregory the Enlightener, St Honorius of Canterbury, St Jerome and St Simon of Crépy.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Canaletto (V): Canaletto in England", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Elizabeth Miller, "Early English Mezzotints", 2pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Eating, Drinking and Making Merry in the 17th Century", 11.30am. The Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "Titian's *Perseus and Andromeda*", 1pm. Royal Academy of Arts: Nicholas Watkins, "Ceramics, Satyr and the Mediterranean: Picasso, Matisse and Miro", 1pm. Royal Society of British Artists at the Mall Galleries, London SW1: Julian Halsby, "John Singer Sargent", 7pm.

DINNERS

Defence and Security Forum: Lady Olga Matland, President of the Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at the Carlton Club, London SW1. Lt-Gen Sir Christopher Wallace, Chief of Joint Operations, was the guest speaker. Col Philip Howes, Chairman, also spoke.

FUTURISTIC NOTES

JULIAN RATHBONE

Sorry to disturb you. Tax Control here

FORGET THE miniaturised cameras everywhere, the bugs, the spotter planes, the satellites, think about computers and how they keep an eye on every aspect of our lives, and I am not thinking about the obvious things like credit ratings, insurance claims, political affiliation.

Using the details on Sainsbury's receipts over a year, a clever analyst, itself computer-created, could, probably does, arrive at a remarkably detailed and accurate picture of every regular customer: how much they and their family drink, eat, chocolate, use convenience foods, and so on; how their financial status fluctuates, whether or not they are impulse shoppers or fixated on the multi-buys and super-savers. Then add to Sainsbury's database those of every other retail outfit in the shopping mall.

GPs' and hospital records are now being computerised. Slot them into each personal file and the picture fills out that bit more: liver crisis two years ago (warning: no alcohol), high blood pressure (watch the salt intake in the convenience foods), diabetic (who's the chocolate for, then?).

All this information and much more is scattered over several databases in which we are all logged under different numerical and alphabetical codes and which, so far, do not speak easily to each other or to any central database. But IDs and smart cards are on the way; a steady drip of speculation and "discussion", nearly always presented in a way that makes the objectors look like naive or antisocial Luddites, is already softening us up.

In 1940 everyone had a number. Those who were alive then and are still alive now still have that number on their medical cards. No problem there then. Every one of our separate personal files, including those generated by credit cards and by supermarkets, and those held by the Inland Revenue or the bank could have the same number. It could even be the number of your car or your telephone. Certainly it will be the number on a nationwide employers' database and on your criminal record. Could be? Will be. And all that information could be, will be, available on a state-controlled database, logged under that one number. Too massive to handle for 60 million people? Ten years ago it might have been - not now. Think of the ease with



Smart cards: not for Luddites

which you can trawl the Internet for the most abstruse piece of information.

Can you imagine? A polite phone call. Sorry to disturb you Mr R, but here at the Central Health Office we see your purchase of chocolate has gone up and is spread over three different retail outlets. Your doctor has been informed. Sorry to disturb you Mr R, Tax Control here. Your cash withdrawals over the last three months are not accounted for through normal electronic channels. We are required to remind you of the penalties incurred by those employing unlicensed builders and paying them in cash... And so on.

Martellous. Who could possibly object? The economy will be run more efficiently, our health needs properly assessed, cheating for benefits will be a thing of the past, and cheating on taxes too... and that's barely scratching the surface. Who are we that we should worry? Potential criminals? Welfare state scroungers? Anarchists, for Christ's sake?

There's no third way. Either you believe in the State's right to run things (that is, our lives) as efficiently as possible in the interests of the multinationals, I mean for the greatest good of the greatest number, or you don't. Whose side are you on? How can you justify your resistance? Are there enough of us to stop the rot? Are we sufficiently upset by it all to be bothered? As a romantic optimist with anarchist leanings (I.e. English) the answer for me is yes, perhaps, maybe. Yes.

Julian Rathbone's latest novel, *Trajectories* (Victor Gollancz, £16.99), is set in 2035

A primitive activity but a delicious breakfast

IS THERE any better breakfast than one of wild mushrooms, picked with the dew on them at 7am, cooked briefly in butter (with plenty of salt and pepper) at 7.30, and eaten at 7.35? As with new potatoes, speed into the pan is everything: if you delay more than a few minutes, half the magic is lost.

Twice during the week I have managed an ambrosial start to the day, held back from more regular gluttony only by the fact that mushrooms are so thin on the ground in our part of the country. Why do we not have more? Even now local finders, disappointed and chagrined by the dearth, are debating the matter keenly. Some say that we have not yet had enough rain - and maybe they are right.

After that scorching summer, we thought we were in for a bumper crop. As I understand it, heat is the one thing that mushrooms need and, in the wild, do not often get. In sustained hot weather the mycelium, or white fibrous root structure, grows strongly beneath the ground; then, come rain and a fall in temperature, it throws up fruit in the form of mushrooms. Most summers are too cool for it to perform with much vigour, but surely, after all those blazing days, it should be in tip-top form?

Reports from other areas such as West Wales and the Home Counties suggest that in some places it is. On my sister's farm in Berkshire one field has defied human assault to produce a tremendous crop. Edged with herbicide in the spring, left bare all summer because it was too hard to plough, then covered with dung from the

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE
30 SEPTEMBER 1989

Out in the dew, Duff Hart-Davis concludes that it is the elusive and mysterious nature of wild mushrooms that makes their pursuit so rewarding

farmyard, it still has a rock-like surface: yet mushrooms have forced their way up through the muck and straw in thousands.

In 1976 - the last summer comparable with the one just gone - the effect of autumn rain was astonishing. Until the middle of September there was not a mushroom in sight. Then, after weeks of drought, came downpours, and the fields simply turned white. Word spread to the village that one meadow in particular was carpeted. People arrived on foot, on bicycles, by car, bearing plastic bags, baskets and buckets. The prospect of dimpled mushrooms, for they could fill any receptacle without moving. Had they brought pick-up trucks or even lorries, they could have filled them as well.

It was altogether too much. Soon people were fed to the gills with fungi. After a few days they felt that they never wanted to see a mushroom again. Besides, with such superabundance, the thrill went out of the sport: the quarry was just too easy to find. It is the elusive and mysterious nature of wild mushrooms that normal-

ly makes their pursuit so rewarding.

This year we are in no danger of being spoilt. On the contrary, the shortage of prey has restored the excitement of the hunt and brought out the worst in competitors. Everybody, I suspect, has two or three favourite places in his or her mind's eye, and everybody gives evasive or positively misleading information about them is questioned. "No, no," one says apologetically, when a hunter returns empty-handed. "I meant you to turn left after you'd gone through that gate, not right..."

In no other pursuit does the maxim "first come, first served" apply so literally. All practitioners worth their salt are out soon after dawn, and all carry knives with which to cut off the bottoms of the stalks, thereby leaving behind the earth, mud and grass which infuriate the cook if brought home.

Why get so worked up? I hear someone asking. Why creep furtively about the fields in the half-light, gripping with apprehension and jealousy, if you must have mushrooms, why not go and buy some from the nearest supermarket?

Such questions miss the point, which is that in searching for wild food one reverts for a while to the primitive activity on which our ancestors' lives depended. To travel back into the distant past not only produces a delicious breakfast; it also renews contact, in a thoroughly therapeutic manner, with an earlier and far less frenetic stage of our evolution.

From *The Independent*, Saturday 30 September 1989. The *Low Report* returns tomorrow

WHOEVER used some coinings: logged by the OED? *Swingloot* was invented by Bernard Berenson's brother-in-law, that languid man of letters Logan Pearsall Smith whose *Trivia* is much admired by Gore Vidal.

According to Peter Conrad, *swingloot* means "the buoyant negotiation of the vanities and temptations of

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
swingloot, n.

society... a term which suggests the eternal residence of the picaresque hero". Pearsall Smith had in mind that enigmatic American in

wartime London, the art critic Stuart Preston.

Only Kenneth Clark appears to have used it since, when he recalled his boom years which had as little to do with talent as Australian gold miners have to do with the precious metal in a mine... and as it sounds, I think that the real explanation was our innocence. Will his son ever have recourse to it?

You ask the questions

(Such as: Melvyn Bragg, which waterproof fabric do you recommend for outdoor sex?)

Doyen of arts broadcasting, Labour peer and presenter of *The South Bank Show*, Melvyn Bragg, 58, was born in Wigan, Cumbria. He went to Oxford in 1957 and then joined the BBC as a general trainee. He published his first novel at the age of 26. Married with three children, Melvyn lives in London and Cumbria.

How do you now 'start the week'?
John O'Byrne, Dublin.
Relaxed.

Did it embarrass you winning the 'Literary Reviews' Bad Sex in Fiction Prize? If sex is a stumbling block for many fiction writers, which author's descriptions do you think are the most convincing?
Jonathan Fowler, Peterborough.
Yes, even though Auberon Waugh confessed that he had given it to me just for publicity.

I think I came quite near writing well about sex in *A Time To Dance*. I think I can improve on that but do not know whether the opportunity will arise. It is ridiculously difficult. Updike does it very well but he seems to leave out love. DH Lawrence, given his context, is still marvellous. The problem is pornography. It is utterly reductionist but, like all propaganda, very sure of itself. The love-in-sex experience is poetry to pornography and much more difficult.

Who's been your most interesting interviewee?

Who's been the most difficult to interview?
Jayne Grant, Brighton.
a) Too many. Mailer, Bacon, Bellow, Heaney, Bergman, Lean...
b) Dennis Potter, Nureyev.

As a Labour sympathiser, how can you justify an institution like the House of Lords?

Tim Nelson, Colchester.
I can't. That is why I have taken the job to help change it radically. I hope.

Do you believe in God?
Henry R. Peterson, Camden.
I believe there is an originating intelligence and pattern, maybe with a purpose.

Given the choice of anyone in history, who would you most like to appear on the 'South Bank Show'?
Simon Marks, Walsall.
Socrates.

Which was the last restaurant you visited and what did you eat?
Catherine Poole, Ipswich.
San Daniele, which is next to the Arsenal ground. Italian Salad and then John Dory.

What hair products do you use?
Suzanne Brooks, Eton.
Very little. Occasionally I use a bit of transparent goo to stamp it down.



How would you introduce yourself if you were the subject of a 'South Bank' retrospective?

Damien Lewis, Nottingham.
A clear nose so here's the head. Best known as Editor/Presenter of Arts programmes. Wide spectrum. Tells story about artists through their works and well-made films as lucidly as possible. Novelist, mainly regional. Then set out one or two themes with which to kick the programme off.

Do you regret not having devoted yourself solely to writing?
Lesley Price, Manchester.
Sometimes. But I did not earn enough money to keep myself and my family as a writer until my mid-40s, by which time I was heavily involved in, and enjoying, being an arts editor. The two do not clash, although time can be a problem.

Which author do you admire most?
Dan Hamilton, Streatham.
Shakespeare.

What's the biggest advantage of having a title - is it on your cheque book?
Jeremy Ross, Stevenage.
I have discovered no advantages of it so far. My cheque book will stay unaltered and some day, I hope, will again be accurate.

Goretex, Barbour or cagoule - what do you recommend for lying

out on for sex in the afternoon?
Leo Daniels, Epsom.
I don't do adverts.

What do you think about Carlton Television taking over Arsenal?
S Penrice, Highgate.
I am surprised these takeovers have been so long in coming. The clubs have a duty to defend the fans and I hope they take that seriously.

What's your biggest weakness?
What's your biggest strength?
Michelle Patterson, Richmond.

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS
NEXT WEEK: BJÖRK, THEN FOLLOWING, CAMILLE PAGLIA

Please send any questions you would like to put to singer Björk and feminist author Camille Paglia to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunch time on Friday, 2 October

I'll keep that to myself.
No idea.

What do you count as your proudest achievement?
Katy O'Donnell, Isle of Wight.
The children (sorry for the embarrassment).

If you had a day of leisure tomorrow, where and how would you spend it, and who with?
Sara Archer, Ross-on-Wye.
I'd like to be totally alone in my favourite part of Cumbria walking throughout the day, reading, listening to music and having a couple of glasses in the evening.

What single thing would you most like to change about cultural life in Britain?
Isabel Parry, Whitstable.
The seemingly ineradicable snobbery. Not elitism but snobbery.

What's your favourite television programme at the moment, excluding the 'South Bank Show'?
Tony Gourley, Fulham.
Any drama by our best British writers - McGovern, Bennett, Bleasdale, Curtis/Eaton/Weldon, La Plante, Wood, Mellor... and Frasier.

What would you most like to see in the Millennium Dome?
Jennifer Healy, East Dulwich.
A dome-sized replica of the human brain.

Does giving a bit of money to the Labour Party salvage your conscience about being a wealthy socialist?

Rory Ainsworth, Norfolk.
I have no conscience about being a wealthy socialist. I supported the Labour Party when I was broke and I still support it. I have earned my money in the competitive worlds of commercial TV and books. I must say I think the questioner here is a rather sad case. We should all be wealthy socialists.

What advice would you give to aspiring broadcasters and writers: how has the business changed since you started?

Julian Druker, Northampton.
Broadcasters: Try for any on-air work you can get - student radio, cable TV. Anything that reaches an audience.
Writers: Write until you think something is good enough to send off to an agent and publisher. Working on a good newspaper/magazine helps in many ways.

In broadcasting and publishing, there is much more pressure but there are still more opportunities. Broadcasting is expanding and will continue to do so. It is much more of a business than when I started.

What will be your epitaph?
John O'Byrne, Dublin.
Why did you only give us one shot at this?

IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

12: THE DENTAL HYGIENIST
BY MAUREEN FREELY

SHE IS not the first. But she doesn't seem to know this. "So did you have a nice break this summer?" she asks as she positions her lights. I tell her it was wonderful. "Oh, good." She flashes me an ultra-white smile. "I'll take that as meaning you found plenty of time to floss."

What game is she playing? Is she for real? This is what I hate about dental hygienists - they always are. Cravenly, I explain that I did take my floss on holiday with me, but even though I had it right next to my toothbrush, I kept forgetting.

"Are you sure it was right next to your toothbrush?" she asks, as she puts on her gloves. As I shrink to half my normal size, I manage to nod. "And you're sure it was your toothbrush." I tell her in the smallest voice I've had in years that I know how strange that sounds. "All I can do is keep trying."

As she takes out her tools, she says, "Well, the best thing is to put the floss right next to your toothbrush so that it's impossible to forget it." She plunges her hands in my mouth. She does not like what she sees. "Oh dear, oh dear. Such a lot of plaque."

"Do you understand what this means?" she asks. I do, but I don't want to hear it again. I can understand that, if you'd spent all those years at dental hygiene school, you'd end up having to take teeth very seriously. But why is it that they can't understand why the rest of us might forget to floss, because something more important might have come up at the crucial moment?

As she scrapes away, I imagine her unlocking herself from a passionate embrace and saying, "I can't go on with this. Not until I've flossed." I imagine her strapping an extra floss dispenser to her toothbrush whenever she goes on a trip, and then checking it the way other people check their passports and money. I imagine her telling her best friend about a break-in, and saying, "But the worst

thing is that they took all of my floss."

I imagine her having a soft spot for Kenneth Starr, because at least he flosses. I can see her shaking her head as the TV cameras show the latest famine, war, or flood victims, and murmuring, "Just look at what all this has done to their gums."

I imagine her as a missionary, celebrating International Flossing Day with a classroom of shoeless children, pointing out the major trouble spots on a map labelled "Plaque Reserves of the World" - but despite all these cruel and extravagant thoughts, I am still surprised to look up and see her standing over me holding an electric toothbrush.

"Do you brush your teeth?" she asks now. "Have you ever considered charm school?" I feel like saying, "Do you know who you're talking to? May I remind you that I happen to be an adult?"

I've accepted the electric toothbrush, and I'm demonstrating my inferior brushing method, and letting her tell me how I can improve it. I don't hear a word of it. I am too busy hating her, and counting the seconds before I can leave this antiseptic room for ever.

It's only when I get back in my car that I notice how much better my teeth feel. I decide maybe it was worth it, and maybe I just hated this woman because she was right and I was wrong.

I actually remember to floss that night. The second night I forget, but actually make a special trip back downstairs to correct the oversight. By the third night, I'm so into it that I throw an extra dispenser into my handbag, because you never know when you might need it.

I start recommending it to friends. When they smile at me in disbelief, I find myself checking the state of their gums. And thinking how pleased my own personal trainer will be the next time I go in for a check-up. This is what I hate most about plaque imperialists - the way they colonise you.



Remember: nobody likes a smart alec



Julia Baxter Peter Lomas

ONCE AGAIN the men of Mensa, despite their supposed intelligence, have proved themselves neither funny nor clever. One must be automatically suspicious of those who not only insist that size matters, but who flaunt the size of their IQs in front of the rest of the population as a mark of superiority. At last a female member of the high IQ society has taken them to task and

Men who fail to impress may be using the wrong organ. By Suzanne Moore

even threatened to start a rival organisation. Julia Baxter has resigned from the governing board of Mensa after claiming its leaders were "sexist, manipulative and bullying". She has also said ominously that Mensa is tearing itself to pieces. "There are dark forces at work which represent a very unhealthy aspect of high intelligence."

Quite reasonably, Mrs Baxter believes that intelligence is not simply a matter of performing well in IQ tests, she would also like to promote emotional maturity and personal development. She wants to call her new organisation

not the Provisional wing of Mensa, or even Continuity Mensa, but Atticus.

Anyone who has done an IQ test knows that the more of these things you do, the more you can learn how to do them. They may indicate a kind of mental agility but they are no guide to communication skills, creativity or ability to function in what Julia Baxter calls "the real world".

Even amongst psychologists they are a subject of intense debate for they have long been used to prove that, on the whole, both women and black people are less intelligent than white men.

All of us have had the disorientating experience of meeting exceptionally clever people who are sorely lacking in fundamental social skills. When we read of another child prodigy who is being sent off to Oxford to do a Maths degree at the age of 12, we tend to worry because we now understand that emotional development is intrinsic to the happiness and success of well-rounded individuals.

Indeed the shelves of bookshops are now full of literature on what we call "emotional intelligence" and how to nurture it in children. Too often emotional intelligence is seen as a

touchy-feely kind of affair, as a softer, more feminine version of the hard, macho ability to retain information. This is not the case at all. Often the most successful businessmen and managers are those who operate through a mixture of brain power and the capability to understand their own motivations as well as those of others.

What is often called feminine intuition or cunning is often little more than a highly formed skill at reading other people through their body language as well as their words. Machiavelli's political insight, for instance, was based on a kind of emotional intelligence which meant being able to empathise with others in order to get one up on them.

Politicians particularly need to use emotional intelligence to gain support. Tony Blair is a master of the art, displaying the kind of emotional intelligence that Brown finds so difficult.

The first time I went to the House of Commons I was struck by the extraordinary inability of so many politicians to use this part of their brain. Highly motivated, ambitious and clever though they may be, they often see emotion as a weakness and as something to be avoided. If you are not in touch with your feelings you

are far more likely to be at their mercy and be overwhelmed by them - as Bill Clinton must now be realising.

The super brainy Robin Cook, admired by his colleagues for his ability to process large amounts of detailed facts and figures, may be quick-thinking, but his inability to manage the end of his marriage displayed poor emotional intelligence which in the end was damaging to him. Mo Mowlam, on the other hand, has proved herself to be an incredibly dextrous player because of her communication and "people skills".

Yet Mensa appears to be full of intelligent people who would rather pat each other on the back for their big IQs rather than try to create an organisation that fosters genuine intellectual curiosity.

To continue to adhere to a system of measuring intelligence that has at times been used to make all sorts of hideous eugenic arguments doesn't strike me as too clever to begin with.

Noel Burger, who was one of those behind the vote of no-confidence in Julia Baxter, denies accusations of misogyny. The organisation, he claims, is bound to be male-dominated because "There are more men

in the top two per cent of intelligence than women, and this is reflected by the membership. The curve of intelligence shows there are more men at the two extreme ends and women occupy the middle ground."

If members of Mensa stopped congratulating themselves on their ability to pass grown-up versions of the 11 plus, they would see that what is at work in what Baxter calls their "self-rationalisation" is an acute inability to face up to the modern world. The combination of information technology and the need for a flexible and multi-skilled workforce has meant that other kinds of intelligence are not only valid but essential for the success of a modern economy.

None of this can be measured by an IQ test any more than it can be measured by one's skill at noughts and crosses. The future belongs to those who are adaptable and yet, by their refusal to adapt, some members of Mensa illustrate perfectly that a certain measure of intelligence is no use if it doesn't go hand in hand with an ability to read the writing on the wall.

The capacity to think ahead is a sign of both real intelligence and emotional maturity. On this score, Mensa is managing to look not frightfully smart but dumb and dumber.

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Antonio Berardi: hand-painted leather



Clements Ribeiro: cutwork dress and zebra boots



Hussein Chalayan: refined modernity



Robert Cary-Williams: urban survival gear



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Juicy fruits

In this season of high camp, choosing a wardrobe for next summer requires a careful eye. By Tamsin Blanchard

What is a girl to wear next summer? Ask some of the designers who have been showing at London Fashion Week over the past five days and the answer may be a fur stole, dyed red and green, worn with shoes so high and spiky you would be incapacitated (Tristan Weber); an organza skirt and a pair of customised ice-skating boots (Boudicca); a leather neck-brace (Alexander McQueen), a dress so short it reveals your sequined knickers (Matthew Williamson), a suffocating, crudely printed bustier so short you'd catch a chill around your nether regions and would need to be waxed from your toes to your belly-button (Sean McGowan), or a tinsel bikini (Julien Macdonald).

If you don't like those answers – and why should you? – you could look elsewhere. But many of the offerings on the catwalks over the past five days have been nothing more than camp twaddle – clothes made by self-indulgent designers who should know by now that no woman wants to look like a) a sci-fi superhero, b) a drag queen, c) a freak. Girl power does not

mean women want to wear ugly clothes. None that I know, anyway. But there were also clothes here for intelligent, fashion-conscious women to salivate over.

My own shopping list would include a modern and graphic dress in red by Mulligan. The designer Tracy Mulligan made a welcome comeback to the catwalks and her collection was clean, simple and easy to wear. My list would also include a lemon yellow dress with an elasticated waist and ribbons at the shoulders, by Sonja Nuttall. As Suzanne Clements of Clements Ribeiro recently told me, the dress is the answer to most women's wardrobe problems. It pulls you together and skims over the lumps and bumps. And although lemon yellow may sound a peculiar colour, it looked bright, fresh and sunny. For evening wear, I would go along with Clements Ribeiro's suggestion of light, lacy dresses that looked feminine without being fussy. Not surprisingly, it is the women of Fashion Week who are providing the most wearable, most desirable clothes.

Hard-edged, aggressive fashion

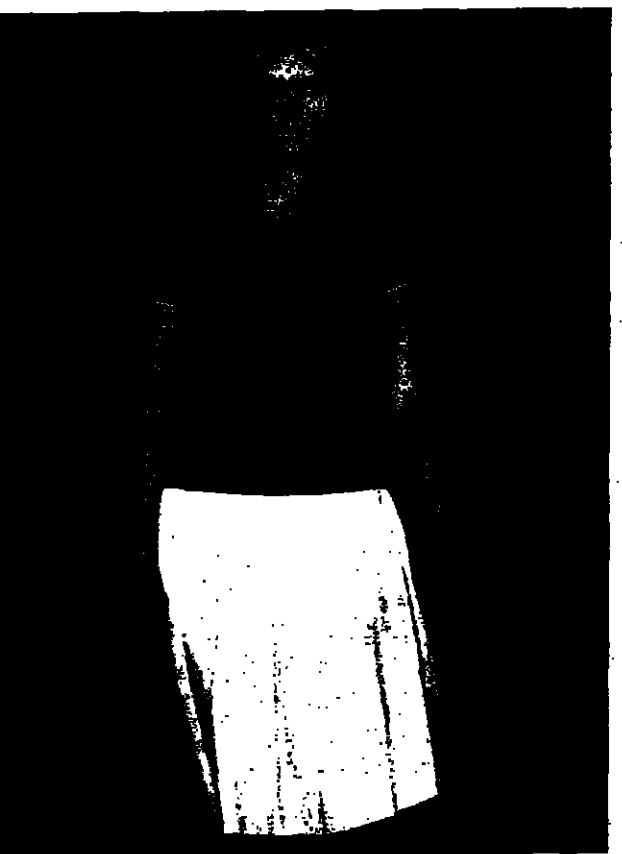
has – it would appear – had its day. Even Alexander McQueen softened his shoulders and made flattering cocktail dresses in softly draped jersey, while Hussein Chalayan's simple, modern pieces, including jackets and skirts with geometric shaping, were a must-have.

From Paul Smith – London's answer to Ralph Lauren – there were sumptuous satin duster coats in baby pink, and ice-blue satin shoes for evening, or simply jeans and a relaxed tailored jacket for everyday wear. Thankfully, there is an end in sight to the stranglehold the colour grey has had over fashion for the past three seasons. Summer 1999 promises to be one of juicy fruit colours.

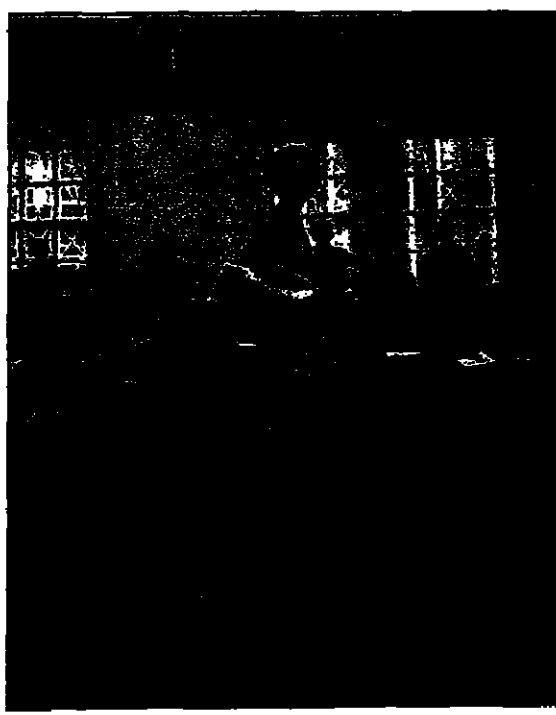
Finally, my list would have to include a pair of 24-carat gold shoes by Manolo Blahnik for Antonio Berardi – the newest alternative to jewellery and, at £10,000 a pair, best kept locked up in a jewellery box – to wear with a batik print chiffon summer dress, or a soft and lightweight, floor-length, knitted angora dress. Practical? Not in the least, but fine and precious all the same.



Pearce Fionda: signature stripes



Sonja Nuttall: intelligent clothes



Roland Mouret: modern elegance



Owen Gaster: aerosol-paint suit



Mulligan: modern, graphic dressing



Matthew Williamson: delicate lace

London's Dance Umbrella Festival owes its success and scale to the tireless efforts of one woman. By John Percival

Decades of dancing on a piece of paper

A single sheet of A4 paper brought about the first Dance Umbrella festival 20 years ago. Val Bourne, who started the whole thing and still runs it, has the documents to this day. She remembers that Noel Goodwin of the Arts Council's dance panel came back from a visit to New York and mentioned an organisation there that provided the shelter of a joint season for companies which could not otherwise afford a showing. Why don't we try the same? people asked. Bourne, a former dancer working in the Council's dance department, was told to draw up a scheme. She did so, succinctly on that sheet of paper, then left the Arts Council to become dance officer for Greater London Arts.

To her surprise there came a phone call from her former boss, Jane Nicholas: "Well, the money's approved, you'd better do something about it." Luckily her new employers agreed that the project could fall within her remit.

The money, in fact, wasn't much – not enough, for instance, for any advertising except a single scrappy leaflet. But somehow, within about nine months, Britain's first festival of modern dance was up and running taking its name, Dance Umbrella, from its American inspiration (with permission – Bourne is always punctilious). And thanks to word of mouth, plus a boost from *Time Out* (whose dance editor, Jan Murray, became a member of Umbrella's board), audiences in the admittedly modest theatres were near capacity.

Looking at the grand scope of this year's Dance Umbrella, it is a shock to remember that in 1978 there was just enough cash for two weeks at Riverside Studios by British dance soloists and tiny groups. This was combined with a fortnight by four

American soloists which Murray was already booking for the Institute of Contemporary Arts. The Arts Council threw a tantrum about this; they wanted a purely domestic festival and insisted that not a penny of their support be spent on the foreigners, so the cost of presenting them had to be raised elsewhere.

Compare that with this year's festival, when the Barbican, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sadler's Wells, the Roundhouse, the Place and the ICA are all brought into play over a period of two full months, not to mention a week of site-specific performances in the new British Library, no less. And now the impressive British contribution is matched by dancers from Germany (the renowned Frankfurt Ballet's overdue British debut), Japan, Holland, Spain and even Russia, besides four American companies who are long-established Umbrella favourites.

Siobhan Davies, whose internationally admired company starts the season tomorrow with a new programme that has already been cheered on tour, was one of the hopeful young British dancers taking part in 1978.

She was there for the opening night when a long, long solo (52 minutes with no music) by the American Douglas Dunn drove some spectators to leave during the action and left others weary and bored.

One man even shouted as he walked out: "Bloody rubbish, you're insulting my intelligence," which prompted another voice in the audience to exhort the dancer: "Just carry on, I love it".

In fact the problem was, if anything, too much intelligence: an intellectual handling of highly varied movement into contrasted sequences that could seem dry. We had never seen anything remotely like it before – but that was the whole point.



Dance Umbrella includes a week of site-specific performances ranging from the South Bank Centre to the British Library

Dee Conway

"It threw everybody off kilter," Davies remembers, "dancers, critics, choreographers. But it was very good for us all, challenging ideas about what dance could be. That opened a door, and we had to move on."

British modern dance had begun only a dozen or so years earlier with the reorganisation of Ballet Rambert and the founding of the London Contemporary Dance, and by 1978 the handful of our dancers involved in the first Umbrella was more or less the entire quota available outside those companies. Nowadays, Bourne reckons, there are about 300 groups spread around the country. Whether most of them have high enough creative standards is another matter. But the best can be very good, and most of those have been nurtured by Dance Umbrella and have been stimulated by the variety of challenging work that the Umbrella presents.

When Davies moved on to form her own company in 1981, Dance Umbrella (by then a recurrent fixture) helped find rehearsal space, organised a tour for her, monitored her financial stability and helped her to understand what she wanted to do. And the opportunity for performances each year made all the difference to her and other developing British artists. "It meant that one had a commitment to a regular platform in an exciting arena, made it possible to throw a line out into the future. We had a future."

It is not only London that has benefited. Even in 1978 the Arncliffe in Bristol joined in to take three of the Umbrella presentations and for years Umbrella took several of its offerings outside the capital, until it found that this cost too much.

However, it started a management service and still organises many tours. It has also put on festivals in the North-west region, in Newcastle (which continues, but now under local management) and in Sheffield and, most recently, the Working Dance Umbrella, which also continues on a biennial basis. All this has been not so much a career as a loving obsession for Val Bourne. Judge the extent of her commitment by the fact that in the early days she willingly turned out of her own home and stayed with a friend so that visiting dancers could use her flat, since there was no possibility of their being able to afford hotels.

In fact something similar can still happen, and did only the other day when confirmation was still awaited for funding one of the Umbrella's future projects.

Yet she always plays down her own part, and praises the colleagues who have worked with her. Dismissing the time she spends fighting for money, juggling venues and dates, holding the hands of her artists and racing all over Britain, Europe and America to find new talent, Bourne likens her own contribution to that of anyone who, seeing and enjoying something, wants to show it to all her friends. "I consider myself extremely privileged to be able to have such a good time," she told me. But Davies, like the rest of us, has a higher opinion:

"Our world is a more exciting, richer, kinder place because of her work. And to do it always with courtesy and thoughtfulness, as she has done, is an extra."

Dance Umbrella begins on 1 October at venues across London

DEBUT

THE ACTOR: Barrie Rutter THE ROLE: Macbeth THE YEAR: 1965

WE PUT on *Macbeth* when I was in the upper sixth in December 1964 and then we went on tour with it to France and Germany around the Easter time of the following year.

I had got into acting because I had the biggest job in the school – the drama teacher, Mr Siddie, suggested that I put it to good use. Obviously, there was no one going to play Macbeth but me.

It was an amazing tour, incredibly homespun. The school – Greatfield in Hull – set about raising funds and we made everything ourselves. Even the swords were forged in the metal workshop. Half the town seemed to get involved – it was a real entrepreneurial effort.

We got to our last stop, a school in Unna, near Dortmund, West Germany. For some reason, just before we went on, the guy playing Macduff said: "What if our swords should happen to break?" I said: "Come on, it's our last show, why would they break now?"

Well, the stage turned out to be brand new and slippery as hell. A warning went out for us all to keep our centre of gravity – have a low arse and wet knees, as they say. Then it came to the fight between



Macduff and me and two things happened simultaneously – his sword broke and I slipped and went reeling back against the scenery.

The next thing I heard was a whisper in my ear saying: "Die and I'll drag you off stage," and so he stabbed me with his knife.

I did a big, dramatic death, very non-Macbeth-like, and with one finger hooked in this chain-mail we'd knitted out of twine, he dragged me off-stage. It looked so heroic that the whole audience went potty and we had to encore the fight. They thought we'd rigged it.

Although I had taken part in a few plays before that at school, and had a season at the National Youth Theatre that year, the tour and that incident often come back to me.

It confirmed in my mind that I felt at home on the stage – I just enjoyed being up there – and it taught me that you should never panic. If things go wrong, let the audience know. I have a great antagonism towards the man who walks on and says: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, the show will have to be cancelled." What unforeseen circumstances? Just let the audience see what you are working with: I'm a great believer in that. Even mishaps can be metamorphosed into magical events.

Barrie Rutter will be appearing in *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, West Yorkshire Playhouse, from 15 Oct

INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Sweetly tentative among the crags of time

LAUNCHING THEIR new season at the Barbican on Wednesday, Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra played Bruckner's Sixth Symphony and Mozart's last Piano Concerto, K595, with Radu Lupu as soloist. Of Bruckner's mature symphonies, the Sixth is probably the least familiar – less emotive than its neighbours, and with a finale that is robustly cheerful.

It was here that Davis's shaping hand was most evident, in subtle adjustments of speed and easing the beginnings and endings of sections. But if he was sure of how he wanted the finale to go, and always made it sound natural, the first movement by comparison seemed less clear and even incompletely realised, partly because Bruckner's counterpoint was less transparent, less clearly balanced than it might have been, and partly because Davis took a passive view of the music's craggy, rhythmic character.

The opening of the Concerto was much more up his street, and he clearly enjoyed tracing a seamless, singing line with an air of smiling beneficence. This suited Radu Lupu to a tee.

No one could deny that Lupu made a lovely, warm sound, and while he kept the volume down

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BRUCKNER, MOZART
LSO/DAVIS
BARBICAN, LONDON
MOZART
LSO/JOSEFOVITZ
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, LONDON

noticeably on his first entry, his tone still seemed full and carried well. Beautiful tone quality and the kind of phrasing that has no abrupt corners suited a work which is above all fluent and mellow, but Lupu's tendency to minimise dynamic contrasts and to slide precipitately into phrase endings, as if their features had been worn smooth by time, came to have a soporific effect.

He was markedly conservative in adding embellishments and fleshing out those passages that Mozart left a bit bare, expecting pianists to supply what was needed, but that is probably erring on the right side, and some of the details that Lupu did supply seemed like sweetly tentative suggestions – a long way short of his aptly powerful projection in Mozart's own cadenzas.

Mozart's C minor Piano Concerto, K491, is a more dramatic and moody piece than K595, but under the limp conducting of David Josefowitz it was not surprising that the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra sold it short at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday.

In the circumstances, the young pianist Ashley Wass played impeccably – not only stylishly, but also with subtle, expressive shading and lovely liquid tone quality.

Josefovitz set a tempo for the final variations that was almost unmanageably fast, but Wass survived its hazards, adjusting the speed in the final section a bit too much, as if in reproof. His Sunday morning solo recital at the Wallace Collection on 8 November is something to look forward to.

After the interval, an even younger soloist, the 15-year-old Alexander Sitkovetsky, made a fine job of Mozart's D major Violin Concerto, and projected with great confidence, but the rest of this all-Mozart concert was a rather dispiriting affair, for though the band boasted a good deal of youthful talent and an unusual number of pretty girls, the direction was sadly uninspiring.

ADRIAN JACK

Psyching up for a performance to remember

CLASSICAL MUSIC

WEBER, DVORAK,
BEETHOVEN,
LPO/NORRINGTON
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, LONDON

HAVE YOU noticed how individual soloists employ different "psyching up" techniques for their first entries in big orchestral concertos? Sunday night's Royal Festival Hall presentation of Dvorak's Cello Concerto with Heinrich Schiff was typically revealing. Schiff, himself a conductor, sat by while a bespectacled Sir Roger Norrington cued a lean, swift-moving orchestral introduction from the London Philharmonic. Schiff would close his eyes

as the melodies soared, glanced at the leader, then mimic the orchestra's cello part with his left hand. He was "right in there", living the work

to its last demisemiquaver, so by the time his big moment arrived, he was prepared.

Schiff's tone is strong, husky and unrelentingly intense, though he can whittle it down to a soft tenor, as he did for the heart-rending reprise of the big tune where cello and flute share the music between them. Elsewhere, he'd thrust his bow like a butcher carving steak. It was fine playing, only occasionally troubled by a tendency to play sharp.

A nod towards the rostrum signalled the second movement, a passionate yet inward reading, with supple solo phrasing and powerful interjections from the orchestra. The finale launched to an upbeat tempo, buoyant and pointed. Schiff made an eloquent statement of the Concerto's closing pages, soaring like a bird on a high trill, then descending before rising on one of the most defiant solo crescendos in the entire repertoire.

The concert opened with a vigorous reading of Weber's Overture, notable principally for Norrington's phrasing of the coy little woodwind figuration that scurries past during the quiet introduction, and for some powerful horns later on. Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, on the other hand, was a riot of a performance, and totally convincing save for some unusual crescendo and diminuendi. And we were served every repeat intact, bar

the big one in the finale. We also enjoyed a classical orchestral layout, with divided violin desks and an impressive show of double-basses ranged across the rear of the stage. The horns raged triumphantly; tempos were mostly very fast; the first movement's six-eight vivace exhibited tremendous rhythmic vitality, and the hectic race home was most emphatically "con brio". A performance to remember.

ROBERT COWAN

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Getting away with murder

Patricia Highsmith's thrillers inspired Hitchcock, Minghella and now Phyllis Nagy. Why? By David Benedict

Death does wonders for an author's career. That may sound horribly cynical, but in the case of Patricia Highsmith, it's true in every sense. Following her death in 1995, adapters have been snapping up her 25 or so novels. Yet while she was alive, death or, more specifically, murder stalked her thrillingly obsessive prose which pulls off the astonishing trick of holding readers in a vice-like grip of apprehension and terror while simultaneously shattering all the rules of crime fiction.

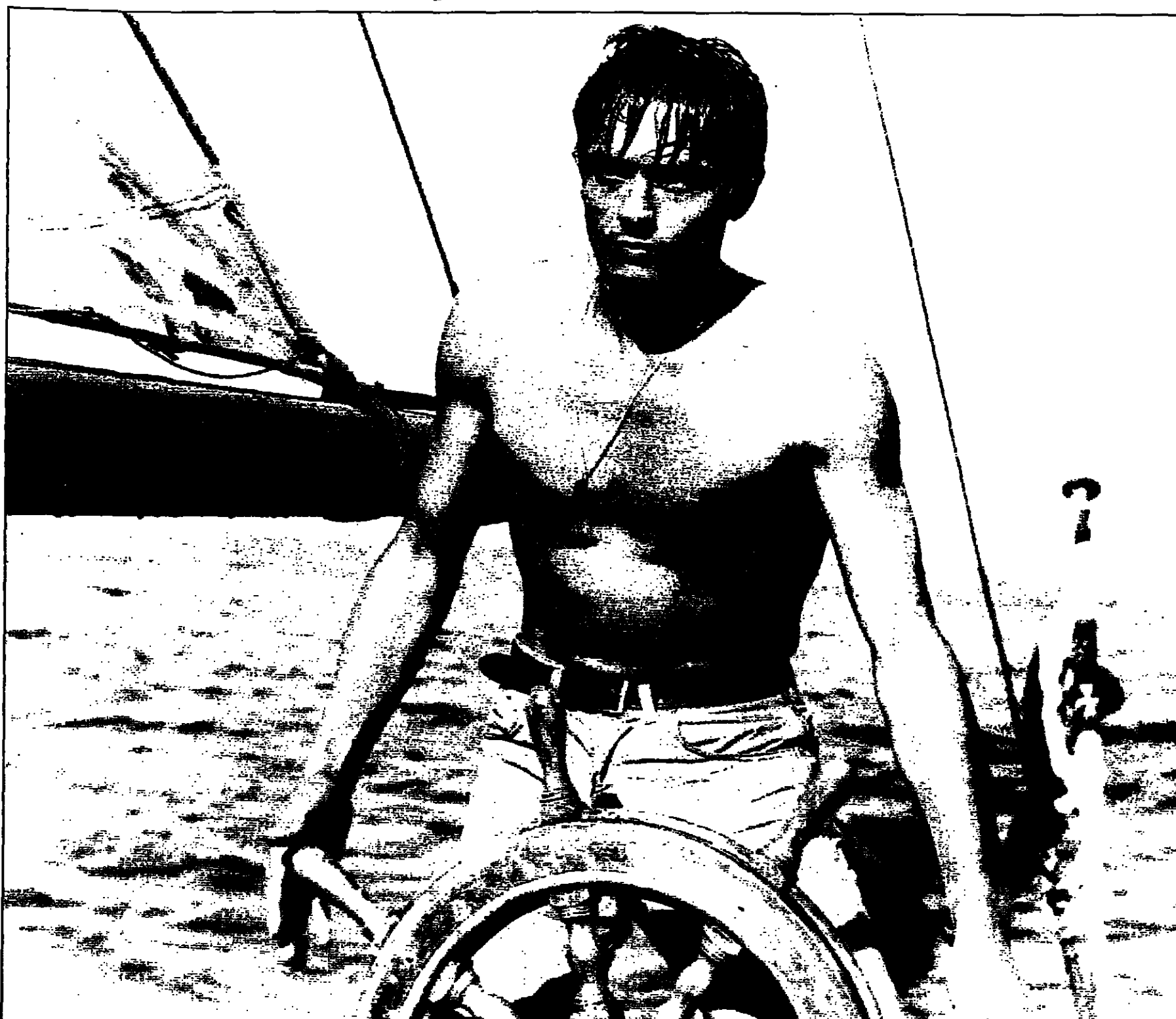
Graham Greene praised her unique vision of "a world claustrophobic and irrational which we enter each time with a sense of personal danger... It is not the world as we once believed we knew it, but it is frighteningly more real to us than the house next door". That goes a long way towards explaining her popularity with filmmakers. In the late Seventies Wim Wenders tried to buy the rights to all her future work. Notoriously canny, she refused, probably because she had little time for his 1977 film *The American Friend* which conflated her novels *Ripley Under Ground* and *Ripley's Game* and featured a wholly miscast Dennis Hopper. Not to mention the fact that she'd been stung before.

Alfred Hitchcock read her first novel *Strangers on a Train* upon its publication in 1949 and instructed his agent to buy the rights without mentioning his name. It cost him just \$7,500. He paid Raymond Chandler \$2,500 a week to adapt it – and then slung out virtually everything he'd written. The film resurrected his then sagging career and has remained near the top of the Hitchcock heap ever since. (A new print is being shown at the London Film Festival in November.) It further inspired two radio versions, a dreadful remake with the giveaway B-movie title *Once You Kiss A Stranger* and the Danny De Vito comedy-thriller *Throw Momma From the Train*.

Although Hitchcock's film did Highsmith no harm, it is a bastardisation of her book. The beautifully constructed theme of guilt chimed perfectly with Hitchcock's obsessions, but as she said to playwright Phyllis Nagy: "They didn't make the film of the book". She's right. In the original, two men trade murders to make them motiveless and undetectable and get away with it. In the film, only one character is murdered and the killer is caught. That turns the men into simple opposites, good and bad, thereby removing all the compelling moral complexity which is the key to Highsmith's writing.

And, until now, that has been the story with subsequent dramatisations including Chabrol's strangely rapid version of *The Cry of the Owl* which is about a peeping Tom, who makes himself known to the object of his desire, and reduces the book to an arid series of plot manoeuvres.

There are rumours of a forthcoming stage adaptation of *Strangers on a Train* and the attachment of gay director Sean Mathias to the project will probably



Alain Delon in René Clément's 'Plein Soleil': 'my perfect Ripley,' declared the author at the time, before revising her opinion

flesh out its underlying homoeroticism, a central feature in every one of the books. That unsettling tension is most clearly expressed through the character of Tom Ripley who appears in five Highsmith novels, beginning with the best, *The Talented Mr Ripley* (1965), which Anthony Minghella is now shooting with Matt Damon in the title role playing opposite Jude Law. Ripley will resurface via Rupert Everett in Mike Newell's movie *Ripley's Game*, but Nagy has got there first. She's now writing a film of *Found in the Street* for John Malkovich, has already delivered the script for Channel Four's film of Highsmith's lesbian novel *Carol* and tomorrow night her stage version of *The Talented Mr Ripley* – starring John Padden – begins previewing in Watford.

Apart from her skills as a dramatist, Nagy is the perfect choice. She met Highsmith in 1987 when she was a researcher on *The New York Times*. At that point all she'd written was an early draft of *Butterfly Kiss* but "everyone knew I wanted to be a playwright. My editor wanted a piece on Greenwood, a famous cemetery in Brooklyn where, among others, Lola Montez, the Steinway family and various gangsters are buried. They wanted a well-known crime writer to walk round it." When Ruth Rendell proved unavailable, Nagy suggested Highsmith.

On the long ride out to Greenwood, Highsmith only broke the

wordless journey by grilling her with three terse questions: Did Nagy like O'Neill, Tennessee Williams and Sam Shepard? "We took the tour in silence and had a guided tour of the crematorium and were invited to put our hands in the still warm oven. We were treated to the gigantic blender full of human

Patricia Highsmith took out a hip-flask of scotch and said: 'I don't know about you but I need a drink.' It was like a challenge, so I took it... and from that moment we were fast friends.



bones... it was a pretty ghastly experience. We got outside and it was about 11am and she took out a hip flask of scotch and said: 'I don't know about you but I need a drink.' It was like a challenge, so I took it. Next she invited me for lunch, which consisted of nothing but Budweiser, and from that moment we were fast friends."

Nagy maintains that these literally unputdownable page-turners are remarkable for their absence of

imagery which holds the drama together and that provides the structure for her adaptation. "Ripley is dominated by one image of water after the next. Stringing them together, it's literally water which pulls him from New York to Venice."

Réne Clément captured some of that in his partially successful film *Plein Soleil* (1960) which, despite skewing the central relationship into a heterosexual love-triangle,

broke box-office records for a foreign language film on its recent re-release. When it was made, Highsmith declared its star, Alain Delon, to be "my perfect Ripley", an opinion she revised when she saw another actor playing her seductive, sexually and morally ambiguous hero for the purposes of a South Bank Show profile.

The actor was Jonathan Kent, now better known as the joint artistic director of the Almeida. As a 12-year-old he'd seen *Plein Soleil* three times and then devoured the novels. Upon meeting Highsmith, he too became a friend. "She was a curious woman, in both senses. Extraordinarily contained. It was difficult to predict her reaction to anything."

He points out that Ripley draws on *The Ambassadors* by Henry James, a writer she loved. "He wrote about the corruption of the new world by the old: terrible things happen to Americans in Europe."

"Ripley mirrors its plot about the scion of a WASP family who goes to Europe with people being sent to get him back." However, he agrees with Nagy that the plotting is utterly secondary. "They have a flat narration of events. She absolutely gives you the driving sense of 'what happens next?' but her potency is that she doesn't get emotionally involved. The tone is uninflected. That's what makes it good dramatic material."

For Nagy, Highsmith's deceptively simple style masks a complexity which comes from a pure

interest in morality which doesn't take a position. "How does one murder? She is clearly struggling to come to terms with what that means. Her pathological repulsion towards ordinary human behaviour and an ambivalence about sexuality provides a clear, chilling path for the reader. All the characters have a great yearning and a curious attitude towards relationships: 'I want it... but don't give it to me, ever. The moment they get it, it's no good.'"

Ripley's central preoccupation with impersonation might be seen as unstageable, but Nagy disagrees and focuses upon the internal element. "Basically it works via Ripley talking to himself."

"Dramatisations have to pick up on these undramatised episodes. It's not about plot, it's about getting into the corners of the book which suggest opening out without inventing."

Her technically audacious but intensely faithful adaptation is similar to the idea of a set of musical variations. "There's a theme you have to go with and then you build the variations from references in the text and you recreate the novelistic structure through fluidity. However good, most times when you watch an adaptation you feel you're watching a novel on stage. The challenge is to make it into a play."

The Talented Mr Ripley previews at Watford Palace Theatre from 2 Oct to 24 Oct (01923-225671)

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

IT'S NOT hard to see why Primitive Science was commissioned to provide one of the curtain-raisers for the 1998 British Festival of Visual Theatre. During the company's brief, unfunded life, which almost came to an end last October, it has acquired a loyal following and a reputation for a visually emphatic, intelligent brand of devised work.

It also knows how to be youthfully irreverent: the programmes for last year's *Hunger* were customised tins of tomatoes. Last week, at the Purcell Room, audiences for *Half Machine* were presented with toy water-pistols.

Unfortunately, that gimmick may have been the only thing they took away from this obscure piece.

A sufi aphorism in the programme warns that: "The secret protects itself, it is found only in the spirit and the practice of the work." Judging by the mutterings afterwards, though, that spirit was elusive.

On stage, there was much to enchant: in the first half, a grey-suited man (Patrick Driver) wandered round a sparse domestic interior furnished with four identical standard-lamps. Unlikely items were produced – a goldfish bowl, a set of scales, a blackboard – and pondered at length. He broke into a mournful rendition of "These Are a Few of My Favourite Things". A dance instructor appeared, and they performed a few synchronised steps. On either side, a pianist and trumpet-player contributed a live, jittery soundtrack.

But it was the commentary provided by another actor off-stage that demanded most of our attention. Delivered in a deadpan monotone, it articulated the recuse's preoccupation with silence.

But the speechifying, particularly in the portentous, static second half, during which a naked man emerged from a heap of corpses in an ornamental garden, and slowly ransacked them, seemed calculated to annoy – did so much need to be said to describe isolation? "My story, as stories go, lacks variety. No one ever goes anywhere or does anything," ran the commentary, a line rather too Beckett-conscious.

At least, though, the cast-members knew how to deliver tonelessness on tap. The main problem with Joe Harmston's production of Beckett's rarely performed, exquisite three-hander *Play*, at Riverside Studios, is that his actors – particularly James Simmonds' adulterous M – inject far too much intonation into what should be an uninflected text.

Tongues will continue to wag for quite a while, too, at the decision to tack on Duma Nkomo's *The Ritual* – an amateur, if heartfelt, attempt at self-help for post-Apartheid South Africa. A double-bill suitable only for people with multiple personalities.

The British Festival of Visual Theatre, to 27 October at the Young Vic, EAC and South Bank Centre (0171-223 2223); *Play/The Ritual*, Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111) to 11 October

Best to keep mum with the dead

THEATRE

MUM
KING'S HEAD THEATRE
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SHIRLEY VALENTINE jabbered away to her compliant confidante, the kitchen wall. Alison, the heroine of *Mum*, a new play by the celebrated comedian, Ronnie Barker, natters non-stop to her dead mother. In one sense, she's keeping mum, but, by God, she isn't in the other. A lonely cleaner in her mid-thirties, thought of as "just another attachment to the Hoover", she yaks on for the company of her own voice. Which introduces the perennial problem of how you present dreary, limited lives without producing limited and dreary art. Let's just put it this way: after seeing *Mum*, you don't feel that Beckett or Alan Bennett need look over-anxiously to their laurels.

Barker has been open about writing the piece as a vehicle for his daughter, Charlotte, whose career has apparently hit a sticky patch. This news is sad because I've seen Ms Barker give some impressive performances. Appearing pudgy like her father, to whom she bears a

strong resemblance, she comes over as one of nature's Sonyas (in *Uncle Vanya*) – plucky, plain, lovelorn, and stoical. But I've also witnessed her in quite chilling form as Mary, that adolescent lingo in gingham in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour*. These plays, saw her rising to the material: in *Mum*, I'm afraid, it's a question of her rising above it, a feat she achieves briefly in the second half.

Alison is on stage the whole time, with just two interruptions from ghostly visitors (clumsily handled both in the writing and in Dan Crawford's production). First, she's confronted by the drunken, feckless father (David Sterne) she loathed, who reveals he was forced into a bleak, loveless marriage by her mother's pregnancy. Then, efficiently piling on the pain, in pops



Charlotte Barker, daughter of Ronnie, puffs on behalf of freedom Sean Dempsey/PA

young soldier Bob (David Maybrick), the love of her life who was killed before they could marry. After some initial memory problems, this reversion is soon obliterating Alison's precious belief that she was once special to someone with a

punishingly detailed recall of his other girlfriends. "Why did you have to tell me this?" she strickenly asks. For no other reason than that Bob is a crude contrivance for upping the anguish. At the start, I thought this was going to be the sort of play

where Mary would turn out to have murdered her beloved mother-cum-obsessive sounding board. Then I began to hope the mother would suddenly materialise in her chair and cordially throttle Alison for making the afterlife purgatory with all that

banal prattling. The lack of humour in this chatter is, given the author, the most mystifying aspect of the evening. You'll get some idea of the excitement-level when I disclose that the first half ends with Alison about to make some crucial revelation to her mother and then breaking off because she's got to race to the library to return some books on which she'd otherwise be fined. It sends you out for your interval drink scarcely able to speak with the tension.

There are weird patches in the script, too, where you get the sense that it's the author talking rather than the character. Anti-smoking fascism comes in for quite a bashing, with Alison protesting the view that the more democracy we have, the less freedom we enjoy. She also launches into a riff about the tyranny of silence in public libraries. Silence? Public libraries? My local is a mecca for mobile-phone addicts. Oddly dated, "Mum" is not the word. PAUL TAYLOR

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The shock for the new

As students take up their college places, the realities of finance have to be faced up to. By John Andrew

Thousands of parents will receive a sharp financial jolt in the coming weeks. As the euphoria of their offspring's achievement fades, the reality of funding a university place becomes a stark reality. The reality of funding a degree course is on the horizon. Parents who studied in the Seventies cannot draw on their own experiences, for the way in which education is funded has been completely altered. Grants are far more generous, and although students are available to all, the amount of state funding for a year's freshers falls considerably short of the costs of taking a course. Although there is no magic wand to make the shortfall vanishing, it is possible to relieve some of the financial shocks before the regatta. This can be achieved by drawing up a budget. This should be a family project. Hopefully, there will be a meeting of minds - you will share the financial pressure with your son or daughter who will experience it first-hand. While the type of accommodation is a matter of personal choice, availability is also a determining factor.

Having established the cost of accommodation, the rest is fairly straightforward. Tuition fees, local travel costs, laundry, toiletries, entertainment, insurance, and clothing are all factors to consider. Books, and possibly a computer, will also be needed. A reading list will arrive before the start of term. However, it is necessary to purchase every listed item.

Now, you should know the cost of your child's education. If any, that will be your Local Education Authority. Every student, regardless of parents' income, may also take advantage of a student loan. The amount depends on where they are



Today's students and their parents face an early lesson in budgeting for the costs of several years of further education

living during the term: London, £3,145; provinces, £2,735; and parental home at any location, £2,335. Inevitably, the two sides of the equation will not balance. Parents are under no legal obligation to fund their offspring, but it is rare, although not unknown, for a contribution not to be forthcoming. The amount you contribute will obviously depend on your circumstances.

Moreover, the timing of the expenditure and your income may not coincide. Inevitably, the beginning of a term is the most expensive. Rent usually has to be paid in

advance, books have to be purchased and fares paid. Most parents usually make a monthly contribution to their offspring's expenses to coincide with the receipt of their income. If it is not possible for you to make a larger sum available at the beginning of term, it makes sense for your son or daughter to bridge the gap by taking advantage of the interest-free overdraft facility included in all of the banks' student packages. Do remember that the overdraft has to be arranged before the account is overdrawn.

If, over the academic year, your son or daughter's funding falls

seriously short of the estimated expenditure, there are ways of resolving matters. The obvious one is to re-examine the budget to see if economies can be made. Increasingly, students are working during term, as well as in vacations, to supplement their income. Their earnings do not affect the level of their grant, or entitlement to a student loan. Working eight hours or so a week is unlikely to be detrimental to their studies.

You may decide to borrow funds. However, doing this so that your son or daughter does not have to do so, does not make sense, as it is far

better for them to take advantage of the cheap credit available to them by way of an overdraft or student loan. You can always assist with repayments later. However, if you do decide to borrow, it is less expensive to have some form of revolving loan facility, secured as a first or second mortgage on your home, than to run an overdraft.

Both parents and students are entering the unknown when the first sixth-former in the family starts a degree course. The last thing that they will want is a lecture on how to budget. However, it is prudent to introduce the subject of money

management, not in a dictatorial way, but diplomatically. By working on their budget as a family project, future financial shocks, and the resulting acrimony, can be avoided.

The Department for Education and Employment has published *Financial Support for Students - A Guide to Grants, Loans and Fees in Higher Education in 1998/99*. It includes a section on access funds for students in financial difficulties, and outlines additional financial help which may be available - for example, from local charities. Call 0800 731 9133

THE COST OF BEING A STUDENT

The NUS estimates that the average student will be left with a shortfall between income from grants and loans and expenditure of £1,710 (£1,927 in London).

They base this on a first year student starting a three year course this academic year who is on full grant, liable for full tuition fees and studying for 38 weeks a year. Sources for the survey include the NUS accommodation cost survey for 1997/98 and average gas and electricity charges for four people sharing a three-bedroomed house. Entertainment includes newspapers, refreshments and the costs of going out.

	INCOME	
	London	Elsewhere
Grant	1,225	810
Loan	3,145	2,735
Total	4,370	3,545
Fees	1,000	1,000

	EXPENDITURE	
	London	Elsewhere
Rent	2,340	1,697
Fuel	130	130
Food/Sundries	1,203	1,011
Laundry	97	97
Insurance	82	55
Clothes	201	174
Travel	70	70
Books/Equipment	443	443
Leisure	721	578
Total	6,297	5,255

SHORTFALL	
	1,927 1,710

If you want to protect your business, think ahead

OFTEN THE work of a financial planner extends beyond advising simply on personal financial planning matters. Many clients run their own businesses. This means that as well as having the typical personal financial planning issues we all face, they also have to deal with their company's corporate financial planning. This is illustrated by the meeting I recently had with Tim.

Tim has been a client of ours for a number of years. He is in his late thirties, and owns and runs a small but very successful computer consultancy company, employing five people. Our previous meetings had focused on starting his retirement planning and building a portfolio of investments.

At a recent review meeting, Tim explained that the opportunity had arisen for his company to purchase a similar local computer company. He had made preliminary inquiries with his bank, which had indicated that it would be willing to lend his company the funds required. To protect its position, however, in addition to a personal guarantee, it would require a loan protection policy to be effected. Tim was not clear what the bank meant.

What the bank requires is a life assurance policy to be put in place on Tim's life. In the event of his premature death, the funds would be available to repay the outstanding loan. This is often required when the lender wishes to strengthen its own security, or it is lending to a new or small company.

The benefits of having such an arrangement are that should Tim die before the loan is repaid, his company would have the funds available to clear the loan, helping it to continue trading. The bank will not be forced to call on Tim's personal guarantee of the loan to make up any shortfall - thereby enabling his estate to be left intact for the beneficiaries of his will.

Such policies are appropriate to all types of business

THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

structure, be they sole traders, partnerships or companies, where there are loans from a financial institution. Such loans may be for items of capital expenditure (as in Tim's case) or simply to cover the agreed overdraft facility.

"Is it going to be expensive?" Tim asked. I explained that the cost of suitable cover depended upon a number of factors, primarily governed by the amount and repayment period of the loan itself. Tim indicated that he was still finalising his negotiations for the purchase and anticipated that the company would need to borrow £75,000 which, if all went to plan, would be repaid after 15 years.

There are a number of different types of life assurance policy that Tim could use to cover this risk. All, however, provide a lump sum on the death of the life assured, in exchange for a regular premium payment. I explained the option of a term assurance policy. This is one of the simplest and cheapest means of obtaining life cover. It provides a known sum on the death of the person whose life is assured, within the term of the policy. The sum assured and the term are selected at the outset. There is no investment element, so the cost of obtaining the life cover is relatively low.

Premium rates on such policies have fallen in recent years. This is due to a combination of factors, including the competi-

tiveness of the market, as well as an over-estimate in the Eighties of the impact of AIDS on the mortality rate. Given that such products are mainly selected on the basis of price, it is worth contacting an independent financial adviser to compare the premium rates of a number of different providers. In Tim's case, the premium for a suitable term assurance policy ranged from £14 to £19.85 per month.

The tax position of the policy premiums and benefits depends upon a number of factors, including whether the policy is effected by the individual, and whether it is on their own life or by the company itself. If the policy were to be effected by the company, we would advise Tim on how to approach his inspector of taxes, for clarification concerning the taxation of the premiums and the policy proceeds. Normally, if the purpose of the policy is to repay a debt, premiums cannot be offset against corporation tax. As a general rule, if tax relief is not

allowable on premiums, the proceeds are not taxable.

Tim contacted me about a month after our meeting. His negotiations for the purchase of the second company had been successfully completed and the borrowings from the bank had been secured. The cover he required was therefore put into force. For the modest monthly premium of £14, the financial security of his company, as well as his increased workforce, are protected in the event of Tim's premature death. The bank has the security it requires in order to make the loan. Finally, Tim's estate is protected from having to make good any shortfall to the bank as a result of his personal guarantee on the loan.

James Bruce is senior financial planner at Corporate and Personal Planning, a fee-based firm of independent financial advisers. The address is Highwoods Square, Highwoods, Colchester, Essex CO4 4BB (01206 853888)

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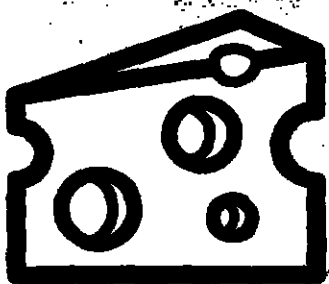
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Uniting our fragmented state bureaucracy is New Labour's 'big idea'. By Paul Gosling

Pulling power is here

Before the election, the Labour Party was thought to be looking for the "big idea" for its first term in office. While constitutional reforms are dominating the legislative programme, they probably do not capture the minds of voters on deprived estates in Hartlepool or Lambeth. Now, it seems, the big idea has emerged: "Joined-up government."

For too long, the argument goes, people have been pushed from the pillar to the post of the state system. No matter that details of a new birth have already been given to the Benefits Agency. They must still, separately, be given to the local council's housing, council tax benefits and housing benefits departments, plus the general practitioner and the Inland Revenue. The government that could connect the state's bureaucracy really might be onto something of a political winner.

We are beginning to see a raft of government initiatives aimed at precisely that outcome. There are a number of new bodies, such as the Social Exclusion Unit, the Performance Innovation Unit and the Cabinet Committee on Public Expenditure, that are directed at overcoming departmentalism. There is the appointment of Jack Cunningham as "Cabinet enforcer", with a remit to knock heads together to ensure that policies are delivered cross-departmentally. And there is the merger of the Cabinet Office and the Office of Public Service to ensure that policy formulation and delivery are overseen across government from one central point.

"There needs to be more emphasis on the corporate management of the civil service as a whole," said Tony Blair in a recent Parliamentary written answer, using words that could have - and probably did - come straight from the new Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson. "My objective," continued Blair, "is to meet the corporate objectives of the Government as a whole, rather than just the objectives of individual departments." A report by Sir Richard found departmentalism to be the weak element of government administration.

One of the results of this new approach has been a £150m fund launched last month by the Treasury, the Invest to Save Budget, "to promote joined-up government".



Jack Cunningham, the 'Cabinet enforcer' with a remit to knock heads together

Rui Xavier

The aim of the ISB is to ensure public services are delivered in a more coherent way and that different parts of government work closer together," said Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Byers. "By breaking down barriers between government departments, we will be able to provide members of the public with a far better service."

Public bodies can apply to the ISB to fund innovative projects that assist a more co-ordinated approach. Good practice examples quoted have been the borough of Lewisham's one-stop shops that not only allow residents to enquire about any council service, but also ask the Benefits Agency about social

security problems, helping to integrate benefits provision. Brent borough has opened one-stop shops for all council queries, and is to create a call centre for telephone questions and an Internet site. While on the Internet, the self-employed can also complete a single electronic form that deals simultaneously with the Inland Revenue, Customs & Excise and the Contributions Agency.

Other examples of inter-agency good practice have been highlighted by the Audit Commission in its new report, "Promising Beginnings". One of the points made by the Commission is the benefits for the consumer in county and district councils sharing offices in remaining two-tier areas, as well as the financial savings and improved joint working for

the authorities themselves.

The most junior tier of local government can have its own role. The parish council of Bramshott and Liphook, in East Hampshire, operates a community office with grant support from the district and county councils. The office helps visitors to make contact with the right person in the larger authorities, and hosts surgeries conducted by council planners, the local housing association and Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Local government reorganisation was a spur to many county councils to improve relations with district authorities where two-tier local government has been retained. This has led to joint working protocols being agreed in several areas.

Cambridgeshire has established

the "Further Improving the Three Tiers Group", bringing parish and town councils into the joint working loop. This has involved linking the county and some district councils' phone systems, which is also expected to cut phone bills. Website links have also been developed, bringing MPs, voluntary groups and councils together. Some officers have been seconded between county and district councils to increase co-operation.

Best Value - the Government-imposed scheme to raise standards across local authorities - is acting as an impetus to establish joint commissioning. In Sussex, the Tandridge, Brighton and Hove, and Wealden councils are to jointly procure IT systems. Baroness Dean, chair of the Housing Corporation, says that housing associations will be expected to jointly commission with local authorities in such matters as estate cleansing.

The CWOIL group of local authorities - Cambridge, Welwyn, Oxford, Ipswich and Lincoln - have come together to share good practice on Best Value, creating internal benchmarking standards. This has also allowed their local auditors, on behalf of the Audit Commission, to come together to decide how best to audit Best Value.

The think-tank Demos says that joined-up government will remain a focal point of the Government. While Labour was in opposition, Demos had argued strongly for the need for greater "connectivity" of public services, and current government policy may owe a lot to the appointment of former Demos director Geoff Mulgan to the Downing Street policy unit.

Current Demos director, Perri 6, believes that one of the future focal points may be the way executive agencies relate to the work of government departments, which has already led to the moving of the Contributions Agency from the remit of the Department of Social Security to its new, more logical connection with the Inland Revenue. The way some of the existing agencies work, argues Perri 6, get in the way of joined-up government by supporting departmentalism.

And as far as New Labour is concerned, there are few sins greater than departmentalism.

Bin-liners and champagne



THE TRADER

THERE'S A lot of rubbish talked about redundancy, especially by people who've never been on the receiving end. Take Norman's comment that firing me was as painful for him as for me. Funny, then, that I was the one snuffing into a sodden handkerchief as the security guard escorted me to personnel, the one feeling as if the world had suddenly stopped turning.

The man from personnel was little better. His attempts at empathy made me feel ill. How on earth could he think he knew how I felt, when I didn't even know? Any minute now, I thought, I'll wake up and everything will be fine again; that's how unreal it all seemed. The man from personnel was droning on and on about conditions, but I couldn't concentrate. Suddenly the droning stopped.

"How much are you taking in of this?" the man asked. I told him. "So, not even in one ear and out the other?" he said. "Well, it's all written down here anyway. Why don't I get you a cup of tea and leave you alone for a few minutes?" And he tiptoed off as if he were visiting a hospital.

I sat, numb and terribly, terribly rejected. All I could think was, how could they not want me? If Jane had been there with a crystal ball, she'd have pointed out that 53 other people from our bank would be feeling the same by the end of the day, but she wasn't, so there was nothing to disturb my wallow in self-pity.

Still, after a few minutes I dried my eyes, and the words on the paper slowly came into sharper focus. One month's pay instead of notice... six months' salary, tax free... services of an outplacement agency... could keep car for two months, or buy on favourable terms. So I wasn't going to starve, at least.

The man from personnel came back with my tea and a plate of custard creams. "Here," he said, "this'll make you feel better." If only it were that simple. I mused, we'd save the

NHS loads of money; no more expensive drugs, just a packet of biscuits and a nice hot cup of tea. Only problem was, I didn't feel I could ever eat again. Perhaps I would starve after all.

"Would you like to call someone?" the man asked. "You're allowed to make a phone call." Just like being under arrest, I thought, but suddenly it did seem a good idea to speak to a friend. I started to dial Olivier's number, then remembered he was away on business. Then I realised it wasn't another City type I needed; I needed Sasha.

Sasha's mother and mine linked up at antenatal classes and have forced us to be friends ever since. She's terribly arty, and has friends who design jewellery and hate capitalism - although they are willing to compromise on the subject of private income. Anyway, right then Sasha and her trustafarian pals seemed just the ticket, so I put in the call and Sasha told me to leap into a taxi.

It was 20 minutes until the security guard arrived with the contents of my desk in a black bin-liner, and another 20 while he went back for my Psion 5 Series which Norman had mistaken for company property.

By the time I reached Sasha's she was in fine cheer. "Excellent news," she cried, hugging me and pouring a vast glass of champagne. "No more horrid trading."

"Yes," I said, feeling suddenly defiant. "They don't want me, so why should I want them?" And we both got very drunk.

Safety steps to ensure a sound business recovery

Responding to fast-changing market conditions is essential for good business. But where do owner-managed businesses start? By Tony Houghton

IF YOU run an SME or Owner-Managed Business and you want to cope with potentially tough times ahead, you need to pay attention to the 3Ms - management, market and money. If a recession strikes, and all the danger signs are present, firms must act now to ensure they are ready to respond to fast-changing market conditions. It is vital some of these steps are taken if firms want to be around to enjoy the recovery.

Management
FOR MANY SMEs and owner-managed businesses, family involvement can lead to a lack of democracy or a business where ineffective family members hold down jobs which are not necessary or could be done

better by others. Family involvement, if not carefully watched, can lead to an inflexible management team that is insufficiently skilled to effectively steer the company through difficult times.

Directors should ask themselves if the voices of younger, motivated managers are penetrating the ears of a self-opinionated and autocratic chairman? They should also consider if there is a strong finance person on the board, and will they stick to their guns during opposition from others?

Market
THE SME's market position, relative to its competitors, is crucial. Companies that may need to review their strategies before the going

gets rough will have many attributes. They may have taken on a "big project" or an exceptionally large contract, for example, which, if it fails, has the potential to bring down the company.

Firms that have lost traditional export markets owing to high exchange rates may no longer be competitive in those markets when rates adjust downwards. Also, firms which have not adjusted to their European customers' requirements by, say, considering the use of the single European currency will be at a disadvantage. Sales-driven companies, where turnover is increasing, have to watch not just margins but the growth in their working capital requirement. When recession looms

and sales volumes fall, banks seek compensating reductions in facilities.

Money
FOR MOST SMEs and owner-managed businesses, the management of cash as a scarce resource is probably the single most important issue in running a business. For all businesses, liquidity management must be competent, reliable and creative. Businesses that do not effectively address certain issues will be caught out. Assuming the management information system is effective, does management make proper use of it? Are cash implications deduced from the trading results explained to the "non-accountant" directors and are action plans developed?

Cashflow and budget forecasting is not a "once-a-year" activity. Companies should continually re-forecast and build in an analysis of the sensitivities of normal commercial hazards.

Also, can the company competently present its cash-management plan to its bankers when dealing with its facility renewal? Has the company really understood and addressed the issues most likely to be of concern to its lenders? If they get this wrong, it is an uphill task to re-establish confidence the second time around.

What's the solution?
SOME SMEs and owner-managed businesses fall in a recession because managers do not recognise or

will not admit they need help from company outsiders. Eggs are powerful and dangerous, yet the size of these businesses is such that many are unlikely to have the in-house skills and resources to do what is necessary to manage the change.

In developing strategic plans to face a potential recession, firms should look at reshaping their businesses. The markets for products and services will be carefully reviewed, as will the shape of direct labour costs and manufacturing processes. Action plans must be drawn up to implement any necessary changes.

Companies also should look hard at asset management, cash management, a cost-reduction pro-

gramme and merger and acquisition opportunities.

The message we want to send is that professional advice now could help your business thrive while others go under. It's always better to call a doctor than an undertaker.

Tony Houghton, an experienced insolvency specialist, is head of insolvency at top-10 accountancy firm KPMG. The firm has launched a scheme - the Business Improvement Club - to help build small and medium-sized businesses by providing managers with a forum to exchange ideas on general business issues and to provide practical information to help with the day-to-day running of firms.

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NEW FILMS

CUBE (15)

Director: Vincenzo Natali
Starring: Maurice Dean Wint, David Hewlett, Nicole de Boer
This Canadian science-fiction thriller takes an ingenious idea—a group of strangers trapped within a gigantic booby-trapped cube try to figure out their escape route and the meaning of their existence—but reduces the intellectual possibilities to the condescending level of a *MCSE* study guide. Some inventively gory effects and resourceful production design almost compensate.
West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza

DEEP RISING (15)

Director: Stephen Sommers
Starring: Treat Williams, Famke Janssen, Jason Flemyng, Anthony Heald
Ramshackle B-movie-style thriller about a cruise liner attacked by a mysterious and savage underwater monster. Treat Williams copes manfully with the abysmal dialogue, and our own Jason Flemyng gets to fire automatic weapons at big slimy beasts, which is not the sort of thing that an English actor gets to do every day of the week.
West End: Odeon West End

SECRET DEFENSE (PG)

Director: Jacques Rivette
Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Jerzy Radziewicz, Gregoire Colin (subtitles)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right
West End: Renoir

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Director: Peter & Bobby Farrelly
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, Lee Evans, Chris Elliott
There's *Something About Mary* is the new comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamelessly funny crimes against humanity: *Dumb and Dumber* and *Kingpin*). But it's not the movie's steady trickle of off-colour gags involving bodily fluids and mistreated animals that is outrageous so much as the fact that most of them have already been revealed

months in advance by the picture's trailer. If you have seen that, then you've experienced the film's highlights. For those who haven't, I pledge not to reveal any of the horrible little surprises that the Farrellys have waiting for you.

In a reversal of their earlier work, this new film has a promising premise but fails, for the most part, to deliver on it. Ben Stiller is heartbreaking as the nerdy Ted, who ruins his big From Night date with the local beauty Mary (Cameron Diaz), when he has an ugly accident with his zipper. Flash forward 13 years, and Ted's life is in limbo because he can't get over his former near-date. He hires a sleazy private eye, Pat (Matt Dillon), to locate Mary, but this nostalgic search becomes a bizarre love triangle when Pat develops his own obsession with the woman.

The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. While it's true that the likes of *Sleepless in Seattle* never accommodated the body-horror comedy on display here, the gags never amount to anything more than vulgarising on a bland cake.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Corner, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Corner, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

WOO (15)

Director: Daisy V.S. Mayer
Starring: Jade Pinkett Smith, Tommy Davidson, Duane Martin
Jade Pinkett Smith and executive producer John Singleton (who directed *Boyz n the Hood*) are only two of the talents wasted in this witless comedy. What plot there is revolves around the love life of a woman named Woo (Pinkett Smith), and the efforts of various suitors to bed her. The jokes and skits will prompt only embarrassed silences, but, more despairingly, the film evidently couldn't care less about its characters.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a mealy action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BABYMOOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and dresses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith), a "baby-mother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter. West End: Ritzy Cinema

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground but is acted and shot with such magnificent bravado that its lack of originality is never a problem. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minerva, Phoenix Cinema

CHARACTER (KARAKTER) (15)

Mike Van Diem's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal won't win this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. It certainly comes equipped with what the Academy adores, but the picture is never as gripping as it should have been. West End: Curzon Minerva

COUSIN BETTE (15)

Baltac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour, deadening for the rest. West End: ABC Piccadilly

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one but *Dr Dolittle* proves that his talents are surprisingly pliable. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology and agrees to help a New York magazine editor, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MISSING A FOOL (15)

Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment and yet another film with nothing original to say on the matter. Stars David Schwimmer best known as Ross in *Friends*. West End: Virgin Trocadero

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weiss, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here, but very nicely done. West End: Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

This cerebral portrait of a sensual situation—the club scene of the early 1980s—is dry and a little scabrous. Chloe Sevigny, who has the look of a wounded animal, is especially good. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)

The latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series. This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtagh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. A largely joyless, automated ride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Corner, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Guy Ritchie's film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but its defining characteristic is a resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)

Derek Jacobi gives a ferocious performance as Francis Bacon in this first feature from the acclaimed and adventurous experimental filmmaker John Maybury. Among the film's many technical accomplishments are the blurred, twisted and grotesque visual compositions which transform simple images into thrashing flesh storms that strongly evoke the artist's work. West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill

THE MAGIC WORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warners' new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks—and courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds—ever cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's World War II drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis—it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences that are branded on the memory. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Corner, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully in their first big-screen outing, involving a shifty secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging; through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

SECRET DEFENSE, which translates as *Top Secret*, finds Jacques Rivette sprinkling his magic dust on a routine story about a young woman (Sandrine Bonnaire) snatched between impotence and aggression in the search for her father's murderer. It's *Hamlet* in slow-motion. Rivette has the hungry eye of a voyeur combined with the sad heart of a wounded romantic. Under his watchful gaze, the most innocuous act creeps with foreboding; he very subtly makes you squirm for a full 90 minutes. Only one problem. In *Secret Defense*, there are still another 80 to go.

On release
In David Mamet's intricate thriller, *The Spanish Prisoner* (above), Joe Ross (Campbell Scott) develops a top-secret formula. His boss (Ben Gazzara) is demanding his signature to secure loyalty, but an enigmatic new acquaintance (Steve Martin) warns Joe that he is about to be swindled. A playful exercise in twisting plausibility and expectations.
On release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

UNE TEMPÊTE (below), a radical deconstruction of Shakespeare's last play by Aimé Césaire, the French-West Indian poet, is receiving its UK premiere 30 years after it was published. Mick Gordon's stylish, funny staging brings out the stark ideological differences between Caliban (Andrew Demms) and Ariel (Michael Wildman) as they consider how to gain their freedom from the slave-driving Prospero.
The Gate, London W11 (0171-229 5387) 7.30pm
Big Space Productions live up to their name, utilising every inch of the Brechtian's split-level areas to present a robust, visceral and visually arresting synthesis of the story of the House of Abreus, *The Killing Floor*.
The Brecht, London EC4 (0171-936 3456) 7.30pm

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) • Baker Street The Last Days of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) • Picc Crc The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
Cave 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm
Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-267 4322 (from 1pm)) • Piccadilly Circus The Doom Generation 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm
Lolita 3.10pm, 8pm
Love and Death On Long Island 1.05pm, 6pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870 9020402) • Leicester Square Hana-Bi 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870 9020403) • Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Le Bossu 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Day After Tomorrow 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870 9020414) • Tottenham Court Road Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm
There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) • Moorgate/Barbican Lane The Devil 8.40pm
Red River 6pm
Saving Private Ryan 7.30pm

CHelsea CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square Love Is the Devil 1.20pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm
There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) • Green Park Chancer 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE (0171-703 4968) • Elephant & Castle Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm
There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0950-888990) • Leicester Square Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 8pm
Sling Blade 12.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 9.05pm
Love Is the Devil 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm (+ Short: The Queen's Monastery)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) • Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 4.20pm, 8pm
There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) • Charing Cross One Woman's War 6.30pm, 8.30pm
La Vie de Jésus 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-734 1508) • Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Love Is the Devil 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm
Men With Guns 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINIMA (0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner/Kingsbridge Le Bossu 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORNET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate There's Something About Mary 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

Odeon CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) • Camden Town The Last Days of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.55pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm
There's Something About Mary 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

Odeon HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) • Piccadilly Circus Titanic 2pm, 7.15pm

Odeon KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) • High Street Kensington Cube 4.35pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm
The Horse Whisperer 1pm The Last Days of Disco 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm

Odeon LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square There's Something About Mary 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

Odeon MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) • Marble Arch The Horse Whisperer 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm
There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

Odeon MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square/Caslin Street 3.50pm, 8.40pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm
Lost in Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm
The Object of My Affection 1.35pm, 6.15pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

Odeon SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) • Swiss Cottage Cube 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

Odeon WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square/Lancaster Gate 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) • East Finchley Le Bossu 1.40pm, 6.25pm
Love Is the Devil 4.20pm, 9.05pm

PLAZA (0950-888990) • Picc Crc The Castle 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) • Russell Square Love Is the Devil 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm
Secret Defense 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

RO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) • Dr Dalsion Kingsland Men With Guns 5pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) • BR/Brickton Accatone 1pm Buffalo 6.6 8.30pm (+ Q & A with Vincent Gallo and Angus Fairhead) 1.25pm (+ Short: The Rules of Engagement) + Pollockville at 4.45pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm
Shave Like You Mean It! Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm
Love Is the Devil 3.15pm, 5.20pm (+ Short: The Queen's Monastery) Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm
There's Something About Mary 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

Art Richard Ingleby

A FIRST BIG London show for Chris Offill (right), the Jerwood and Turner prize-nominated man of the moment who paints super-decorative swirls smattered with lumps of elephant dung. Behind all the glitter and the silly titles lies a serious attack on society's racial and sexual stereotypes.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171-402 8075) to 1 Nov
Stephen Chambers is another painter whose instant, decorative appeal masks more lingering concerns. This exhibition of his subtly layered paintings selected from work made over the last seven years marks the beginning of his year-long Fellowship at Kettle's Yard.
Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 551224) to 1 Nov

Classical Duncan Hadfield

ONE OF THE world's greatest violinists, Pinchas Zukerman, celebrates his 50th birthday by teaming up with the English Chamber Orchestra in Beethoven's magnificent Violin Concerto. Aside from playing the precarious solo line, Zukerman himself directs the work; and, in the concert's first half, conducts the orchestra in Mozart's 41st and last symphony, *Jupiter*.
Barbican Hall, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.30pm
Sir Simon Rattle's successor as Chief Conductor of the CBSO, the Finn Sakari Oramo (right), finds himself maintaining a hectic schedule of concert-giving. In tonight's event, the very young Schubert's assured Symphony No 1 is set alongside Richard Strauss's no less precocious tone poem *Death and Transfiguration*.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) 7.30pm



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Dr Dolittle Phone for details Gang Related Phone for details Godzilla Phone for details The Horse Whisperer Phone for details Lethal Weapon 4 Phone for details The Little Mermaid Phone for details Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels Phone for details Lost in Space Phone for details The Magic Sword Quest For Camelot Phone for details Saving Private Ryan Phone for details There's Something About Mary Phone for details Woo Phone for details The X-Files Phone for details

FELTHAM CINEMAS (0181-607 0555) • BR Feltham Deep Rising 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Dulwich Le Jayne 1.15pm, 4.50pm, 8.20pm
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FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) • East Finchley/Finchley Central Armageddon 5.40pm, 8pm
Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 3.30pm
Grease 12.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 12.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm
Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha 3pm, 5.30pm
Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm
Sling Blade 12.15pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.30pm
There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 2pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 9.55pm
The X-Files 9.50pm

GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) • BR Greenwich Funny Games 8.15pm
Guided Tour Film Location Trail: Special Event 1.30pm
Lethal Weapon 4 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
The Mad Max Movie 3.45pm
Saving Private Ryan 5.20pm, 8.45pm
Tim Bevan: A Producer's Perspective: Special Event 6.15pm

HAMPSTEAD CINEMA (0870-9020413) • Belsize Park Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 8.10pm, 12.30pm
Ryann 12.25pm, 3.55pm, 7.30pm
There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 5.05pm, 8.15pm

HARROW SAFARI (0181-426 0303) • Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Dill Se 8.45pm
Dushman 8.45pm

WARRNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9002) • Harrow on the Hill Armageddon 9.20pm
Dr Dolittle 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.20pm
Grease 12.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Horse Whisperer 5.50pm
Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 12.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
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Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

HOLLOWAY ODEON (0181-315 4213) • Holloway Road/Archway Armageddon 4.45pm
Deep Rising 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Dr

